

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE
OF
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, PUSA.

THE

United Planters' Association

OF

Southern India

(INCORPORATED).

* * * * *

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

BANGALORE

ON

14th, 15th, 16th and 17th August, 1916.

With an Appendix.

* * * * *

Madras:
PRINTED AT THE ADDISON PRESS.

1916.

THE
United Planters' Association
OF
Southern India
(INCORPORATED).

LICENSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Dated 22nd April, 1899.

LICENSE.

Whereas "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" is an Association which is registerable under the Indian Companies' Act, 1882, as a Limited Company, and whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that it is formed for the purposes set forth in the Memorandum of Association, and that it is the intention of the Association to apply the profits and income of the Association to promote those purposes, and that payment of any dividend to its members is prohibited by the Fourth Article of the Memorandum of Association, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct under the provisions of Section 26 of the said Act, that "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" shall be registered with limited liability, but without the addition of the word "limited" to its name.

THE
United Planters' Association
OF
Southern India

(INCORPORATED).

ESTABLISHED 1894—INCORPORATED 1899.

District Planters' Associations represented.

ANAMALAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Anamalais.*
BABABUDIN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Mysore.*
CENTRAL TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	... *Travancore.*
COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Coorg.*
KANAN DEVAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	... *Travancore.*
MUNDAKAYAM PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Travancore.*
NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Nilgiris.*
NORTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	... *Mysore.*
SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	... *Mysore.*
SOUTH TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	... *Travancore.*
SHEVAROY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Shevaroys.*
WEST COAST PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Cochin, etc.*
WYNAAD PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...	... *Wynaad.*

Executive, 1916-1917.

Chairman.—J. S. NICOLLS, *Daverashola Estate, Devarshola P. O., Nilgiris.*

Vice-Chairmen.— { P. G. TIPPING, *Fairlands, Sidapur, Coorg.*
C. E. ABBOTT, *Meppadi, Wynaad.*

Council.—The Chairman, *ex-officio*, the Vice-Chairmen, *ex-officio*, the Association's Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George ; the ex-Chairman (Chairman during the previous year); and the Honorary Secretaries of the respective District Planters' Associations (or such other Representatives as these Associations may from time to time appoint).

Secretary.—FLETCHER NORTON, *Bangalore.*

Representatives on the London Chamber of Commerce.

1913-1916...GUY OWEN.
1912-1913...JNO. C. SANDERSON and GUY OWEN.
1902-1912...JNO. C. SANDERSON.
1901-1902...JNO. C. SANDERSON and BROOKE MOCKETT.
1897-1901...JNO. C. SANDERSON.
1896-1897...JNO. C. SANDERSON and FRANK MANGLES.
1895-1896...JNO. C. SANDERSON.

Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER, *Ootacamund.*

Former Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Representatives on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

	Chairmen.	*Vice-Chairmen.*
1894-1895	Mr. DIGBY T. BRETT.	Mr. G. R. EVANS.
1895-1896	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.	Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
1896 1897	Mr. G. L. ACWORTH.	Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1897-1898	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.	Mr. H. G. PARSONS.
1898-1899	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.	Mr. J. C. ABBOTT.
1899-1900	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.	Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
1900-1901	Mr. H. P. HODGSON.	Mr. A. LAMBERT.
1901-1902	Mr. ROBERT GOMPERTZ.	Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
1902-1903	Mr. J. A. HARRIS.	Mr. E. G. WINDLE.
1903-1904	Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.	Mr. O. SCOTT-SKIRVING.
1904-1905	Mr. H. M. KNIGHT. Mr. G. K. MARTIN.	Mr. G. K. MARTIN.
1905-1906	Mr. W. H. SPROTT.	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1906-1907	Mr. J. A. HARRIS. Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.	Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.
1907-1908	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.	Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1908-1909	Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.	Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.
1909-1910	Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.	Mr. BERNARD MALCOLM.
1910-1911	Mr. R. D. TIPPING. Mr. C. H. BROCK. Hon'ble Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.	Mr. C. H. BROCK.
1911-1912	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.	Mr. E. F. BARBER. Mr. A. Ff. MARTIN.
1912-1913	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.	Mr. E. L. MAHON. Mr. E. A. HUGHES.
1913-1914	Mr. E. L. MAHON.	Mr. E. A. HUGHES. Mr. W. L. CRAWFORD.
1914-1915	Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.	Mr. J. A. GRAHAM. Mr. C. H. BROCK.
1915-1916	Mr. C. H. BROWNE.	Mr. H. WADDINGTON. Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.

Planting Member.

1893-1896	... Hon'ble Mr. G. ROMILLY.
1896-1900	... Hon'ble Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
1900-1904	... Hon'ble Mr. G. L. ACWORTH.
1904-1908	... Hon'ble Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
1908-1909	... Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
1909-1912	... Hon'ble Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
1912	... Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER.

OFFICE: PARRY'S BUILDINGS, NORTH BEACH, MADRAS,

and

25, SOUTH PARADE, BANGALORE.

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The United Planters' Association

OF

Southern India.

(INCORPORATED).

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

First day, Monday, August 14th, 1916.

The Twenty-third Annual Meeting opened at Bangalore, in the Mayo Hall, at 2 P. M., on the 14th August, 1916.

The following were present:—

Chairman	...	Mr. C. H. BROWNE.
Planting Member of Council	...	The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER.
Vice-Chairmen	...	Mr. H. WADDINGTON. Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts	...	Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD, M.A.
Director, Labour Department	...	Mr. AYLMER FI. MARTIN.
Secretary	...	Mr. FLETCHER NORTON.

Delegates.

Anamalai Planters' Association	...	Mr. J. HATTON ROBINSON.
Bababudin „ „	...	Messrs. L. E. KIRWAN and S. H. DENNIS.
Central Travancore Planters' Association	...	Mr. T. C. FORBES.
Coorg Planters' Association	...	Messrs. P. G. TIPPING and A. H. JACKSON.
Kanan Devan Planters' Association	...	Messrs. E. A. HUGHES and A. J. WRIGHT.
Mundakayam „ „	...	Mr. S. P. EATON.
Nilgiri Planters' Association	...	Messrs. J. S. NICOLLS and A. S. DANDISON.
North Mysore Planters' Association	...	Mr. W. H. REED.
Shevaroy Planters' Association	...	Mr. E. TRAVERS-DRAPES.
South Mysore Planters' Association	...	Mr. C. LAKE.
South Travancore „ „	...	Messrs. A. W. LESLIE and J. B. COOK.
West Coast Planters' Association	...	Messrs. H. WADDINGTON and R. LESCHER.
Wynaad „ „	...	Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.

Messrs. J. G. HAMILTON and Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON were present and voted as *Ex-Chairmen.*

Visitors.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. V. COBB, C. S. I., C. I. E., Resident in Mysore.
Sir THOMAS HOLLAND, K.C.I.E., Chairman, Commission of Industries.
Sir M. VISVESVARAYA, K.C.I.E., Dewan of Mysore.
Mr. H. F. ANDERSON.
The Revd. F. BREEDEN.
Doctor COLEMAN, Director of Agriculture to the Mysore Government.
Mr. A. R. COX, I.C.S.
Mr. A. C. W. DENNE.
Mr. L. EGAN.
Mr. W. PETRIE-HAY.
Mr. St. CLAIR JOHNSON.
Mr. J. W. KEITH (Messrs. Parry & Co.).
Mr. F. KERR.
Mr. W. A. LEE.
Mr. T. LOVE.
Captain F. MACKAY.
Mr. W. A. R. T. MACKAY (Agent, Bank of Madras).
Mr. W. MCRAE, Government Mycologist.
Mr. W. D. MARTIN.
Mr. PELL.
Mr. H. L. PINCHES.
Mr. G. RICHARDS, Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey.
Mr. W. C. ROSE, Agent, Bank of Mysore.
Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., Acting Director of Agriculture, Madras.
Mr. A. THOMSON.
Mr. W. R. THOMSON.
Mr. S. J. WILSON.
Mrs. ANSTEAD.
Mrs. BROWNE.
Miss ELLEN BROWNE.
Mrs. EGAN.
Mrs. FORBES.
Miss GRANT.
Mrs. PETRIE-HAY.
Mrs. LEE.
Mrs. AYLMER MARTIN.
Mrs. D. MARTIN.
Mrs. NICOLLS.
Mrs. PINCHES.
Mrs. J. H. ROBINSON.
Mrs. A. WRIGHT.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The Delegates met in the Mayo Hall, at 10-30 A.M., in General Committee. The delegates having answered their names and announced the acreage subscribing to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, the Chairman said:—

GENTLEMEN.—As you know we are making a new departure this year in the method of conducting our meeting with a view to conducing to more efficiency. I hope that you will give it a fair trial. No doubt if it works well, next year we will be able to improve on the arrangements drawn up. We have endeavoured as far as possible to divide the members into Committees, so that they will be able to meet at the same time. I am quite willing to make any alterations, if any member wishes to be transferred from one Committee to another. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are all *ex-officio* members of all Committees.

A number of changes in the Committees were then made.

Accounts.

The CHAIRMAN.—We will now take up the consideration of the Accounts. Has any member anything to say about them?

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that he wished to call attention to the small amount that had been recovered from the sale of the Book of Proceedings. He noticed from the accounts that last year they had only recovered Rs. 107 from the sale of the Book of Proceedings.

That seemed to him a very small amount to get in from such a large number of planters as they had in South India. He was quite sure that it was due to the fact that it was not that they did not want the book, but that they forgot and did not write to order them. He would ask every delegate present to go back and propose that in future the Secretary of each Association would order a book for each member of the local Association and distribute the copies either by V. P. P., or, if the Associations so decided, to pay for the books themselves and to distribute them free to their members. In that way at least 500 copies would be sold, which would give a profit of about Rs. 300 to the General Fund, which was something to be thought of.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that his Association had done this for years. It gave a copy to every member of the Association. He doubted very much if everybody read the book, but that was very probably due to the fact that it was issued too late, when interest in its contents had been lost.

Representatives of other Associations having stated what was done by their Association in this direction, the Chairman said that it seemed, as far as he could judge, that many Associations did now either buy the books and dispose of them to, or distribute them among, their members. If Mr. Richardson would draft a Resolution recommending all Associations to take steps to provide each member with a book, whether the local Associations paid for them or induced members to buy them it would meet the end they had in view.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON accordingly proposed the following Resolution :—

I beg to propose that all delegates advise their local Associations to authorise their Secretaries to order a copy of the yearly Book of Proceedings for every member and distribute it, either free or recover the cost from their members, as may be arranged.—*Unanimously carried.*

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) proposed that in consideration of the way in which the Bank of Madras had met them at the outbreak of the War in helping them to tide over what might have been a serious financial disaster, that all their accounts in future should be kept with the Bank of Madras.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast).—Does Mr. Nicolls' Resolution include all subsidiary funds, such as the Benevolent Fund?

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—It does not cover our deposit account. It will not affect all Government Securities. It only means all banking accounts.

The CHAIRMAN.—It only refers to banking accounts. It will mean making some change in the rules of the Benevolent Fund. A Resolution to the effect can be made when the Benevolent Fund comes up for discussion.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—There is such a proposition in my name.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he had no desire to oppose the Resolution, but he would like to point out that the Mercantile Bank of India, as far as he was concerned, gave him all the help that he required. All he wanted to propose was that the first line of the Resolution should be omitted. He believed that the only Bank that refused to help planters at the beginning of the War was the National Bank of India. Was there any reason to make out that the Bank of Madras was the only Bank that had helped planters?

Mr. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) said in reply that he did not know whether Mr. Abbott had a copy of the Proceedings of the Committee meeting held in Madras on this matter at the outbreak of the War. The Committee went round to all the Banks; the Mercantile Bank certainly did not meet them, nor did the National Bank of India. They went so far as to say that they would not accept their present notes of demand. The Bank of Madras was the only one that came forward and said that it was quite prepared to lend money on the whole of the locked-up produce on their agents giving them a letter to say that the produce was there. On that ground, he thought that Mr. Abbott must admit that they were in a position to say that the Bank of Madras was the only Bank that came forward to help, and that was his reason for saying that the Bank of Madras deserved well by the planters.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast).—Is the Resolution so worded that it carries the implication that the Bank of Madras was the only Bank to help?

Mr. ABBOTT.—I have no wish to oppose the motion. I merely made the remark that the Mercantile Bank helped me all I wanted. It did not hesitate an instant.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't see anything in the Resolution that might lead people to infer that other Banks did not help us. (Reading the Resolution). There is no reflection on other Banks.

Mr. ABBOTT.—If that is the feeling of the meeting, I have nothing more to say.

The Resolution was then adopted.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that there was a balance standing to the credit of the Kalisyndicate Experimental Fund of Rs. 2,490 odd. He would like to propose that the amount be transferred to the Experimental Plot Fund, or some other fund that belonged to the Scientific Department.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.—Does the money belong to us, or is it held in trust?

The CHAIRMAN.—It belongs to us.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—I think that it is quite time that the name disappeared from our proceedings.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) asked for information regarding the sum of Rs. 1,337 odd standing under the heading "Book debts: Amounts due by sundries considered good."

The SECRETARY explained the items which went to make up the amount.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) said that most of the delegates received copies of the accounts printed, as they were now, on the day of the meeting. Would it not be possible, he said, to send them out earlier, so that they could be fully gone into by each delegate before coming to the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said that the meetings had to be held in August because the accounts were made up till the end of June. The auditors were busy then going into the Accounts of Banks and firms and they could not touch the Association's Accounts till the end of July. As a matter of fact, these accounts were not finished being audited till three days ago and it was difficult to get them printed in time for the meeting. If Mr. Hughes' proposition was to be given effect to, they must hold the meeting in September. He quite agreed that there had not been time "to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them."

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that these accounts could not be passed at the Committee meeting, they would come up again later for confirmation.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—So you will have time till Thursday to consider them.

Mr. HUGHES.—But we shall not be allowed to discuss them in open meeting.

The CHAIRMAN.—You could speak against the Resolution confirming them and give your reasons for doing so.

Mr. HUGHES.—Is there any objection to holding the meeting in September?

The CHAIRMAN.—To do that we would have to alter the rules of the Association. I cannot say now, on the spur of the moment whether that ought to be done. I would like to have time to consider the matter. We must leave the matter now and bring it up later on. I believe, under the Companies' Act, we have to get permission to change the date. The accounts have to be rendered within 12 months of the last date on which they were sent in.

Mr. NICOLLS said that he did not think that there was much to grumble about. The accounts were not going to be passed till Thursday; they had from then till Thursday to examine them.

Mr. HUGHES.—On Thursday they will be put in open meeting when there will be opportunity to examine details and discuss.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that postponing the meeting till September would interfere with the current expenditure as the books would have to be closed till after the meeting. Another point was that for tea planters September was a busy month and he doubted whether it would be possible for tea estates to allow their men away to attend the meeting.

Mr. WADDINGTON agreed with the latter part of Mr. Richardson's remarks.

The CHAIRMAN said that they might get over that difficulty by holding the meeting later in August. He did not think however that altering the date would do much good. If the meeting was held on the 14th August the auditors only finished their audit on the 12th or 13th; if it was held on the 29th of August, it would probably be found that the Auditors would finish on the 28th (laughter). All that he could say was that next year they would endeavour to get the accounts from the auditors earlier and send them round.

Mr. HUGHES said that he had no desire to press the point and the matter was allowed to drop.

Mr. BARBER'S Resolution was then taken up and Mr. Waddington seconded it.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that he thought they should make it clear in the Resolution that the money belonged to the Association. Otherwise when the Resolution was read by those who had to deal with the accounts of enemy firms, they might say that the money should go to them.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Resolution would come before the meeting for final confirmation on Thursday. In the meantime they might ask Messrs. King and Partridge as to the legality of it.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that perhaps he could throw some light on that question by explaining how they got the money. Originally the Kali-syndicate agreed to pay them £200 a year on the understanding that they ran a certain number of manurial experiment plots. Mr. Birnie, who was looking after the experiments, left the country suddenly, but before doing so, paid this money into the Bank to their credit. Looking upon the money as belonging to the Association, he had proceeded to spend it and he wanted to go on spending it. How far he was entitled to do it, he did not know. If they used it for something else there might be trouble.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he had made no suggestion for diverting the money from the purpose for which it was originally intended.

No one having any further Resolutions to propose the business before the General Committee closed.

THE LABOUR COMMITTEE.

The following Committee on Labour matters then met:—

Chairman:—Mr. C. H. Browne.

Members:—Messrs. J. H. Robinson, T. C. Forbes, L. E. Kirwan, P. G. Tipping, A. J. Wright, J. S. Nicolls, W. H. Reed, E. Travers-Drapes, C. Lake, C. E. Abbott, R. Lescher and J. A. Richardson.

The CHAIRMAN called on Mr. A. Ff. Martin, the Director of the Labour Department, to read his report.

Mr. MARTIN read the report. The full text of which appears on page 20.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) asked Mr. Martin with reference to a statement he had made as to restriction of advances, whether he meant restriction of advances by planters or by maistries.

Mr. MARTIN.—By maistries as well as planters.

Mr. NICOLLS said that the restriction of advances by maistries to coolies was a very difficult thing to deal with. They had a certain number of wealthy cooly maistries, and he could not see how they could object to these men investing the money in any way they liked. He had a case in point recently. He had a cooly maistry under advance to the extent of Rs. 1,000 who had over a hundred coolies whose total advances came to over Rs. 5,000, therefore the maistry was investing Rs. 4,000 of his own money over and above that given by him. One particular man who had been with this maistry for the last twenty years had got into difficulties with a Lubbay over a mortgage. Rather than lose the man, the maistry came forward and took over the mortgage. He thought that it would be very difficult for them to restrict an advance of this kind. Another point he wanted to know about was the registration of thumb impressions. Did Mr. Martin want the thumb prints of maistries as well?

Mr. MARTIN said he wanted the thumb prints of everybody, maistries as well as coolies.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) said that he had the thumb prints of all his coolies, but he had not yet sent them into the Department.

Mr. MARTIN said as regards the first point raised by Mr. Nicolls, all realised that advances were made not only by planters to maistries, but also by maistries to coolies. He did not think that the maistries were in any way worse than were the planters; they certainly would not combine unless the planters did. As regards the wealthy cooly maistry, he congratulated Mr. Nicolls on having one of them. They certainly did exist and must be exceedingly good business men to make their wealth out of one of the most precarious methods of making money, namely by recruiting coolies. He found that that class of man did not advance more than he had to. If there was a general agreement to omit advances and it were loyally stuck to, they would find that the wealthy maistries would not give more; there would be no necessity to do so. The particular case mentioned by Mr. Nicolls was not a case of an advance at all; it was purely a money-lending transaction. The man was obviously pledged to the Lubbay. All wealthy maistries went in for money-lending and they could not interfere with that sort of thing.

With regard to thumb imprints, delegates attending previous meetings would remember that at first he was not keen. There was, however, a general feeling that some sort of registration should exist. Mr. Brock's scheme was a most elaborate one, and afterwards there was another scheme for taking thumb prints introduced by Mr. Marden, which fell through as impracticable, because they had no machinery at hand to do the work and it was too expensive. Mr. Marden asked for an advance of Rs. 20,000 to begin the work. Now those reasons against the scheme had been removed. His office had a man who was specially trained to do the work. He did not draw a large salary and the machinery was now in existence, so that the extra expenditure would be small. All knew how difficult it was to get coolies to sign an agreement, etc. The getting of thumb prints would obviate this. It did not matter how the thumb print was taken, so long as it was

registered in his office. It was being done on a rather large scale on some Estates and he did not see why it could not be done in all.

Mr. J. HATTON ROBINSON (Anamalais) said that the reference to the importation of criminal labour into the Anamalais being a success was likely to create a wrong impression in other districts. Although the coolies had been working more satisfactorily lately, still there had been a great divergence of opinion among the planters there as to whether they would be a successful labour force or not.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that in regard to this point he had been through the Anamalais recently, and, as Mr. Robinson had said, there was a diversity of opinions as to the value of these coolies. He thought, however, that opinions were divergent because the men who were employing the coolies were working on divergent methods of treating the coolies. As a matter of fact, divergent opinions in the Anamalais, not only on this question but on others also, were quite common (laughter).

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON.—Does that remark apply only to the Anamalais?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—We were only discussing the Anamalais.

Mr. MARTIN said that so far as his Department was concerned, he had only received one complaint about the unsuitability of the coolies on one particular Estate, and he knew of another case were the difficulties had been got over. With these two exceptions, nothing had been brought before the Department that would lead him to think that these criminal tribes would not be a valuable labour force. It was because of this that he made the statement that they promised to be a permanent and satisfactory addition to the labour. He would only like to add that everyone engaged in that hazardous experiment realised, or should have realised, the fact that the present generation of these criminal tribes were not likely all at once to accept the conditions of Estate life quite happily. What they were really striving for was the next generation. Then they would have people who were accustomed to Estate work and life from childhood, who would make an almost ideal labour force.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) said that instead of the experiment being a disaster it had done much good. He hoped that the Anamalais would get more of these coolies.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON (Anamalais).—In what way has it done good ?

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS.—Some of my coolies who went to the Anamalais five years ago have come back to me (laughter).

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON.—That has not done much good to the Anamalais.

Mr. C. LAKE (S. Mysore) said that Mr. Martin had referred to the matter of the limitation of advances. They in South Mysore had come to an agreement regarding this matter. But there was much outside competition. In Mysore there were more Indian Coffee Estates than European, and they had to compete against these Estates which would not come into line with them in the matter of advances.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroys) said that there was not much use for one district to agree to limit advances unless all districts agreed to the same. If, for instance, the Nilgiris recruited labour from villages in which the Shevaroys also recruited, it would make little difference to the Shevaroys if the Nilgiris advanced Rs. 15 per cooly and the Shevaroys, Rs. 10. If, on the other hand, the Nilgiris advanced Rs. 50 per cooly, there was no question as to which district would get the labour. If an agreement had to be come to, it must be between all Associations.

Mr. TIPPING (Coorg) said that in his district the limit was Rs. 10, but they could not restrict the maistries.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that he knew of a case where an Estate in Peermade had lost both its coolies and a good Kangani by this system of limiting advances. The Kangani tried to stick to the Rs. 15 advance limit but without success, so he borrowed money to make up the difference. Only advances up to Rs. 15 however were recovered. He was unable also to recover the balance from the coolies. He thus became so hard up that he could not advance coolies, who were taken by a wealthier man, and a good Kangani was broken. He merely mentioned this as an instance where a wealthy Kangani could wreck the smaller man.

Mr. MARTIN said that he had not heard before of South Mysore having entered into an agreement to limit advances eventually to Rs. 15. He was very glad to hear Mr. Lake mention it. What was wanted was an agreement of this sort between all districts. If a man wanted Rs. 150, advance and scorned Rs. 15, he was perfectly wise to do so as long as he could get Rs 150; but if he found that he could only get Rs. 15, he would quickly give in. He quite agreed with Mr. Travers-Drapes that there must be an agreement between them all.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that the case he mentioned was that of one planter trying to limit advances when nobody else would do so. It was an impossible state of affairs.

Mr. LAKE said that Mr. Martin had lost the point of his remarks, and that was that they had tremendous native competition. If a cooly wanted Rs. 150 advance, he would get it from the native planter.

Mr. MARTIN.—I admit it is a difficult situation, but won't the native planter come in?

Mr. LAKE.—I don't think so.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was just one point that he ought to mention, which applied more particularly to what Mr. Travers-Drapes had said about the necessity for unity as regards the amount of advances that should be given; as he said it was no use for one Association to give Rs. 10 and another Rs. 50. At the Control Committee the other day, with a view to bringing about greater unity and at the same time making the Committee more conversant with the conditions prevailing in the different districts, it was decided that, at the next meeting of the Committee, which would be held in October, each District Association might send a delegate to voice the views of the planters of that particular district (Cheers). He thought that that would have the effect of producing the unity they desired. The Control Committee had to act for everybody, and it was natural under

the conditions that the Control Committee was formed that it could not be conversant with the peculiarities of each district. It was the wish of the Committee that every district should have an opportunity of attending the meeting and giving their views of the prevailing conditions and as to how the Labour Department should be carried on to the greatest advantage of the whole subscribing community. (Cheers).

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that he had no grievances to air, but there was rather a feeling in his district that they were not quite so well off now as before the Labour Department started. There seemed to be more people coming to recruit in the district. They had enough labour if they were left alone, but in this past year there was a feeling that their labour difficulties were more than they had ever been before. They found that their coolies were going out to other districts. There was no doubt that competition had increased, and this might be due to the fact that the maistries were told by the Labour Department that there were surplus coolies in the district. He mentioned this, not as a matter of complaint, but merely to bring it to the notice of Mr. Martin. The difficulty had not become definite enough yet, but there was a feeling that there was now more competition throughout the district, owing to the Labour Department.

Mr. MARTIN, replying, said that generally spheres of influence were easy to establish, but almost impossible to stick to. The late Mr. Day was very keen on this point, and he (Mr. Martin) gave Mr. Day permission to try. He told Mr. Day that he had tried the experiment before under more favourable conditions, but found it impossible to stick to the arrangement. When he was working for a Company in which all the Estates were under one control, he had tried to keep certain districts as recruiting grounds for certain Estates, but for various reasons, which, he could not then go into, but which he was willing to discuss with any gentleman afterwards, he found it was impossible to stick to the arrangement. In the absence of any specific complaint by Mr. Waddington, he was justified in assuming that that gentleman was referring to Moplah labour. As he had said in his report, with few exceptions, nobody had tried them for work on their Estates. The few exceptions were Moplahs. One came to the Coimbatore Office and said "Give us work." Mr. Day placed one lot on a Nilgiri Estate and he recommended Mr. Malcolm to try them. He did not do this without communicating first with Mr. Waddington and Mr. Lescher and the Kerala Estates, who said that they had sufficient labour at that time. But, of course, conditions altered from month to month. He did not think that the Labour Department was responsible for the scarcity. He knew that there was a feeling that there was a scarcity of this labour and he knew where it was employed, but it was not on Estates subscribing to the Labour Department. The Labour Department refused to consider such applications and the men went elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was one point that had to be considered and that was what Mr Campbell Hunt had pointed out, namely, that there was a great difficulty in advancing Moplah labour, because Moplah Maistries said that if they advanced coolies for Estates ten or fifteen miles away, the coolies were absolutely certain to leave, because they could get to their homes easily. They would much rather recruit labour for places 200 miles or more away, because having got the Moplah, he could not get away again.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—That is quite true.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that, with reference to what had just fallen from Mr. Martin, in Peermade they employed a lot of Moplahs, who came without advances and they had not been known in the district before. They did not come with any recommendation from the Labour Department.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before accepting the Labour Department's accounts he would like to ask if anybody had any suggestion to make about them. As regards their correctness, it did not come before them, because now they had Chartered Accountants to audit the accounts and they had certified to the correctness of them.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING asked if the Labour Department would circulate copies of the accounts to all subscribers.

Mr. MARTIN.—They will be printed in the *Planters' Chronicle* and the Book of Proceedings.

Mr. C. LAKE (South Mysore) asked Mr. Martin if he was satisfied with the progress the Department had made during the year and whether he thought that the Department was likely to become what they all hoped that it would become in the next three years.

Mr. MARTIN said that he regretted to say that there was still a want of efficiency in certain parts of their work, but it was due to misfortunes with their staff; but once these difficulties were permanently got over, the Department would certainly advance to greater efficiency and hoped to give satisfaction entirely. At present he must confess that they had not got over their difficulties.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON (Anamalais) said that his Association quite sympathised with the Labour Department in the loss of its staff; but it seemed to think that the Agencies were insufficient, and it also thought that Brahmin agents were not the proper men to have in a district where they recruiting Pariahs. He also wished to draw attention in particular to the incompetence of the Erode Agent. In addressing the Labour Department through the Coimbatore Agency, they had had several complaints regarding this man. He had been asked to bring these matters up before the Labour Committee and to have them rectified.

Mr. MARTIN in reply said that it was quite true that the Agencies were insufficient but the Control Committee had sanctioned the money for a large increase. It was always understood that these Agencies were not sufficient, and more money had been given the Department than it could spend: the difficulty was to find suitable men. In regard to Brahmins he must differ from what Mr. Robinson had said. He had had one or two who had been most successful, but he never employed them if he could help it. He gave an instance of where a Brahmin had been successful. He understood that the objection to a Brahmin was that he could not go into the Pariah quarters of a village. He once toured with a Brahmin agent who went into a village and said bring out so-and-so. They had arrived the night before and had encamped some miles from the village. In the morning the agent's peons found an opportunity when the defaulter, after whom they were seeking, had to leave the village. They caught and brought him before the speaker and the agent, who were able

to deal with him with some success. He then pointed out to the agent that they might just as easily have gone into the village and dealt with the man there. The agent replied: "No, Sir, you are quite wrong. If you pursue a pariah dog he runs before you until he gets to his own door and then he turns on you and snarls. The pariah cooly is the same, get him away from his home and he is a different being." He merely mentioned this to show that a Brahmin could be a very successful agent if he was a good man. He did not think that they had any Brahmin agents except in one division, and they were selected by Mr. Day. Mr. Day was a great man for efficiency in the matter of returns, etc. He quite agreed with the Anamalais however that it was better not to have them if they could get others.

Mr. A. J. WRIGHT associated himself with all that Mr. Robinson had said in the way of sympathy with the Department in the losses of its superior staff it had sustained and its consequent difficulties. There was one matter that he had been asked to call attention to and that was in the case of an advance to a Kangani. The Labour Department's assistance had been invoked and the reply received was that the man was not to be found. The Estate was not satisfied and employed special agents and got both the man and the money.

Mr. MARTIN promised to look into this matter. He had not heard of it before.

This closed the business before the Committee.

First day, Monday, August 14th, 1916, 2 P.M.

OPEN MEETING PROCEEDINGS.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—It lies only within my Province to refer to the War here as touching our industries, and to mention with acclaim the honoured names of brother planters who have joined His Majesty's Forces, adding lustre to their profession. From the Planting Districts of Southern India 196 men have joined His Majesty's Forces, and of these 17 have given their lives for the Empire, 16 have been wounded and three taken as prisoners. A book containing their names is on the table before each member. Those killed are as follows:—H. Robinson, I. A. R. O., killed in Mesopotamia; N. A. S. Barnard, 2nd-Lieut., Liverpools, killed; G. Bromley Browne, 2nd-Lieut. Black Watch, killed in France; F. M. Lowder, Corporal, Motor Cyclists, killed in France; W. B. Middleton, believed killed in East Africa; R. Thompson, 2nd-Lieut., 8th Royal Irish Rifles, killed in Gallipoli; L. S. Trelawney, killed at Mons; J. A. Graham, Captain, 7th Lincolns, killed in France; H. L. Robinson, Lieut., killed in Mesopotamia; E. L. Hammick, 88th Carnatic, dead; R. C. Milbank, Captain, West Riding Regiment, died of wounds; W. Hamish Chalmers, 2nd-Lieut., 19th Punjabis, killed in Persia; A. V. Cree, 2nd-Lieut., Welsh Fusiliers, killed in action; J. H. Parkinson, 2nd-Lieut., 8th Battalion Lincolns, killed in action; C. Searancke, drowned in H. M. S. *Russell*; J. C. Stewart, 2nd-Lieut., I. A. R. O. Guides, killed in action in Mesopotamia; G. R. Carson Parker, 2nd-Lieut., Royal Artillery, died of wounds in Flanders. Those wounded are as follows:—G. P. Farley, 2nd-Lieut., I. A. R. O., now attached 57 Wilde's Rifles, Ferozepore: C. E. M. Browne, Lieut., I. A. R. O., attached 40th Pathans, wounded badly in Mesopotamia, sent home for treatment; C. Legard, Lieut., 7th Lincolns, wounded in France; I. W. Gerrard, Royal Scots; J. H. Byrne, Lce.-Sergt., H. L. I., wounded in right hand in recent big battle in Mesopotamia, now discharged owing to wounds; J. Y. M. Henderson, Lieut., 11th H. L. I., slightly wounded by a sniper on 31st January, 1916, since wounded again seriously; J. D. H. Cook, 2nd-Lieut., attached 5th Gurkhas, wounded in Dardanelles; R. Searancke, London Scottish, wounded; W. A. Fleury, 5th Royal Irish Lancers, wounded early in the war, W. G. Haslam, Capt., 10th Cheshires, wounded in France; J. Horsfall, Motor Cyclists, France, attached Signal Squadron, R. E., invalided; A. P. Kinloch, 3rd Royal Warwicks, wounded but returned to Flanders; E. C. Pitcairn, 9th Black Watch, gassed in France, invalided; E. M. Walker, attached Wellesley's Rifles, invalided Mesopotamia; H. C. Davies, Royal Artillery, France, has been twice wounded; A. S. Jackson, Capt., wounded in France. Those taken prisoners are as follows:—H. Browne, 2nd-Lieut., I. A. R. O., attached 24th Punjabis, Mesopotamia, captured Kut-el-Amara; W. S. Halliley, 7th Rajputs, captured Kut-el-Amara; L. Bell Syer, 27th Punjabis, captured Kut-el-Amara.

Since my last report I am glad to say that the financial situation has become considerably more easy, but the shortage of shipping has very largely increased cost of freights, and I regret that I do not see any near prospect of an appreciable reduction.

As regards the clerical work of the office, I have to report that there has been a very large increase in correspondence, due in a great measure to the work connected with the Labour Department, which I am happy to say now reaches the figure of 101,666 acres, which is 1,666 acres more than it was first decided necessary to start the Department on; and to the Rubber Growers' Association, of which we are a branch, which I have to report that 17 Companies and Estates from Southern India have joined. These together with circulars and correspondence has raised the correspondence from this office from 2,588 letters in 1912-1913 to 5,099 in 1915-1916, which in a measure shows the activity and wider influence and weight of the U. P. A., which during the course of the year has held two Committee Meetings of the local branch of the Rubber Growers' Association, at which a great deal of useful information has been collected through the courtesy of Honorary Secretaries of District Associations, who have largely interested themselves in procuring it for me, and my thanks are due to them and their members. This information I hope to circulate shortly. The R. G. A. on facts being brought to their notice have allowed a rebate of 15 per cent. on subscriptions during 1917-1918 and 1919 to Companies, members of the Association, operating in Java, Sumatra, Southern India and Borneo.

Two Scientific Committee Meetings were held, at which one tea and one rubber Experimental Station were selected and settled, and a second rubber Experimental Station practically arranged for. The coffee experimental station is still under consideration. The sum of Rs. 10,000 guaranteed by this Association has been placed at the disposal of the Government, who advise me that only the sanction of the Secretary of State is required for it to take over our Scientific Department.

A large and influential Conference of coffee planters was held in the offices in June.

At the Madras Exhibition, our various products were exhibited and were sold by auction, which realised Rs. 342-15, which was paid over to the Madras War Fund.

The Pest Act has been accepted by the Association and it is to be hoped that Government will accept the suggestions made by the Association.

The Association accepted the report on weights and measures, but supported the minority report of Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, I. C. S.

A Chamber of Commerce for Mysore has been instituted, to which Mr. L. E. Kirwan was elected as your Representative.

There was some correspondence during the year on the Institution of an assessment on the profits of tea factories, but on our representation Government has issued orders for exemption.

A strong letter of protest against the imposition of a double tax on tea by the Travancore Government was addressed to Sir William Meyer, Finance Minister, but so far no decision has been given as to its withdrawal, or that an arrangement has been come to between the Imperial and Travancore Governments.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER was unanimously re-elected to represent this Association on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George and

Mr. Chadwick, who has frequently attended our Meetings, has gone to Russia on a mission towards which the Government invited us to subscribe, but we were unable to do so, as funds were not available. But I am able to report, through the good offices of the Planting Member, the Indian Tea Association has decided to subscribe up to £250, which decision I am sure will meet with the approbation of all South India Planters.

The acreage subscribing to Labour Department amounts to 101,666½ acres, of which the cardamom acreage is 2,010. This is an increase of 3,548 acres, the total subscription for which is Rs. 2,00,516-8-4.

Subscriptions and interest to the South India Planters' War Fund amount to Rs. 42,373-8-8. Except for temporary loans amounting to Rs. 450, there have been no calls on this fund, but it is after the war that the strain will be felt.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Macfarlane, who kindly consented to act in place of Mr. Guy Owen, our Representative on the London Chamber of Commerce, away on military duty, for his honorary service ungrudgingly given as Treasurer in London.

The subscription to the Overseas Aircraft Fund amounted to Rs. 4,704, of which Rs. 4,649-6-9 have been remitted home.

The South India Planters' Benevolent Fund has Rs. 18,500 invested in 3½ per cent. Government Paper and Rs. 3,000 on Fixed Deposit. The depreciation written off on Government Paper to bring value to 78 amounts to Rs. 3,410-14-11. Assistance durng the year amount to Rs. 450. Report and Account to December 31st, 1915, is laid before each member.

The *Planters' Chronicle* shows a profit of Rs. 905-2-4, against an estimate of Rs. 1,000. This is due to the large rise in paper and the falling off in advertisements, due to the War.

The accouuts for the year are laid on the table. A comparison of actuals with estimates shows the following results:—

	Estimate.			Actual.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Income ...	... 22,964	6	0	23,566	6	1
Expenditure ...	... 18,827	11	0	19,267	9	6

The Chairman's Speech.

GENTLEMEN,—Since we last met in this room, another year of War has passed over our heads, with its awful toll of blood and treasure. Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have said quite recently, that so far as we were concerned the War was only beginning; while this is no doubt true, there are, I think, signs that the beginning of the end is in sight. In the past two years, Britain has raised an enormous army of five million men, guns and munitions are being turned out on such a scale that we are not only able to supply our own but the requirements of our Allies, who are also being aided with money. It is a wonderful record, of which the British Empire may well be proud, and should serve as an object lesson to those people who indulge in the dangerous amusement of twisting the British lion's tail mistaking its benevolent tolerance for weakness.

I do not suppose there is anyone in this room who has not had friends or relations killed or wounded in this War. Mr. Norton has

read you the names of those who have gone from amongst us to fight for their country, with the list of casualties. Great as the sacrifices have been, they are likely to be greater in the future. We entered the War unwilling and unprepared, we are going to see it through. It will be a fight to a finish. It is not reasonable to expect that our industry could pass through these days of stress without feeling the strain. As regards direct taxation, probably no part of the British Empire has got off so lighty. Sir John Hewett, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, is reported to have said that while India with a population of 300 millions is spending £8 millions on her Army and Navy, Australia, with a population of 5 millions, is preparing to spend £50 millions a year. During the past year, tonnage has been short, at one time, owing to Government requisitionings, it promised to become acute, and although we did not get our produce shipped as soon as we should have liked, considering the nation is engaged in a struggle for its very existence, we may consider ourselves fortunate that we got it off at all.

Freights, as a natural sequence to short tonnage, have increased enormously, and there seems no reason, so long as cargo is forthcoming at the rates demanded by the shipowners, why it should not go on increasing. Coffee, with a selling value of 7*d.* or 8*d.* a lb., naturally feels the pinch more than rubber at 2*s.* 6*d.* a pound. It seems not impossible that by the time coffee crops are ready for shipment, freights will have reached 15 or 20 per cent. of the selling value. The subject is coming before you for discussion; it is a difficult one and can only be dealt with by the joint action of not only the Allies but neutrals also. It may be some consolation that 60 per cent. of the Shipping Companies' excess profits finds its way into the coffers of the Home Government, and is available for War purposes.

Tea.—The season has been favourable for crops, while prices have been well maintained; it may be said to have been a prosperous year.

Rubber.—Prices have been on the whole good, although lately there has been a fall.

I do not propose to commit myself by suggesting what yield may be expected per acre from South Indian rubber in full bearing; it is however, obvious from the dividends paid by some South Indian Rubber Companies, which are not yet in full bearing, that when they are, even with a very considerable drop in prices, there will remain a good margin of profit.

Coffee.—It has been a poor year; crops were on the whole much below the average, while, owing to the markets of the Central Powers, which take a large proportion of our Indian crop, being closed, the demand was limited. Fortunately, there was a strong demand in India, which did much to save the situation. Prospects are on the whole very good for the coming crop.

I would remind you of the note of warning sounded by Mr. Richardson in his last year's address, when he pointed out the prudence of building up a reserve against the depression which is bound to come with peace, when the excessive demand created by the war ceases and before the demand for replenishing the depleted Continental stocks sets in.

Last April, H. E. Lord Pentland made a tour through the Kanan Devan, Peermade and Mundakayam Planting Districts. A full report of the tour was published in the *Madras Mail*, which no doubt you have all read.

Planters' homes and interests are usually situated in remote and somewhat inaccessible parts of the country; generally little is known of the conditions under which they and their labourers live, or the vast amount of capital and energy which have been expended in converting the wilderness into flourishing gardens, or the disabilities under which they labour; it was, therefore, with very pleasurable anticipations that the planting community looked forward to His Excellency's visit, when His Excellency would have an opportunity of acquiring first hand knowledge of planting conditions, which would help to clear away misunderstandings, which in the past may possibly have existed. Our thanks are due to His Excellency for having undertaken the tour, which, from the planting point of view, was an unqualified success.

The Association took part in the Madras Exhibition. There was a fine display of planting products. Coffee owing to the crop not having been gathered, would have made a poor display but for the fine show put up by Messrs. Pierce, Leslie & Co. It is easy to be wise after the event and I am prepared to admit we might have made a better display of our wares. Should there be another Exhibition in Madras, we must find the means to put up an attractive building of our own and appoint a Manager to receive, display, repack and return the exhibits. In short we must make a display commensurate with the importance of our industry. Our thanks are due to Mr. Martin for the great interest he took. I do not know how we should have got on without him. Also to Messrs. Parry & Co., for receiving, displaying and returning or selling the exhibits for the benefit of the War Fund.

The Labour Department has completed the second year of its life. It sustained within the short period of three months a severe blow in the death or Mr. E. H. F. Day, the Deputy Director, and Mr. C. E. L. Ward, the Superintendent at Srivilliputtur. Our sympathy goes out to their bereaved relatives. Both of these gentlemen were men of exceptional ability and energy. We may cougratulate ourselves that in this crisis we had a gentleman of Mr. Martin's energy and capacity to grapple with the situation. For a time he had the onus of running these two Agencies thrown on his shoulders, in addition to his own work, and I was anxious lest his health gave way under the strain. During the past year 3,548 acres have joined the Department bringing the total acreage to 101,666 acres. We can only hope as time goes on the planters who now hold aloof will realise the necessity of unity and the moral influence it exercises over labour.

I do not think our coolies and labour suppliers are less honest than any other class, but there are black sheep in every flock. Seeing the enormous sums of money advanced by estates in Native States to suppliers in British India, and that the only remedy against swindlers is the Civil Court, it is remarkable that our losses, which are big enough in all conscience, are not bigger. It seems to me an extraordinary thing we will not combine to put a stop to swindling. From what I have seen of the working of the South Canara Agency, which more particularly comes under my notice, I am convinced that with unity we can rope in every defaulter within the next two years.

It is a matter for regret that, owing to abnormal times, the Government of Madras has been unable to assume charge of the Scientific Department. Your Committee has not been idle, so far as this Association is concerned ; everything which could be done has been done. The terms under which Government was prepared to take over the Department have been settled, and, lastly, the annual contribution of Rs. 10,000 due by this Association has been placed at the disposal of Government with the Bank of Madras. Our thanks are due to the Government of Madras, and Mr. Chadwick, the Director of Agriculture for the sympathy they have shown in pushing forward the scheme ; that our united efforts have not reached fruition is due to the times being out of joint. The services of an Assistant Chemist have been secured for work in the Laboratory and we have been able to undertake analytical work on very moderate terms to members. Mr. Anstead will no doubt speak to you fully on this subject.

Last year, you elected a Committee to represent the South Indian Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association. At that time, I think, most of us had rather hazy notions regarding the organisation and activities of that body. During the past year two Meetings of the Committee have been held at Quilon. If you have read the report of the Annual Meeting of the Association in London, you will find there is no matter affecting the interests and well being of rubber growers which does not receive its active and earnest attention, whether it be the drafting of a forward contract form, whereby the producers' interests are safeguarded, or seeking redress against the unjust application of the excess profits tax on young Estates. The Ceylon and Malaya Research Funds have been amalgamated with the R. G. A. ; the result of their labours is available to subscribers ; the question of research work in South India is a matter of correspondence between Mr. Anstead and the London Office.

I do not think it is too much to say that the R. G. A. is an indispensable body to rubber growers, subscribers and non-subscribers alike benefit by its labours. It is incumbent on every Estate to join. I do not believe it is the wish of shareholders in Companies, or proprietors of Estates, to derive benefit from a body maintained at the expense of their neighbours.

The question of alien enemies and the treatment they should receive after the war, will come up for discussion. It is unthinkable that members of a nation, guilty of the atrocities perpetrated in Belgium, the starving and ill-treatment of our soldiers and civilians who are prisoners in their hands, the murder of Miss Cavell and Captain Fryatt, shall be accorded the same treatment as our gallant Allies.

The question of the double duty on Travancore tea will come up for discussion. I feel confident that as a mere matter of bare justice an arrangement will be come to by the Governments of India and Travancore, which will put Travancore teas on the same footing as other Indian teas.

The draft Pest Act submitted by the Government of Madras for our opinion was accepted as it stood.

The Planters' War Fund inaugurated last August, the result of Mr. Murphy's memorable speech, has been well supported on the whole. I hope subscriptions will not fall off. We shall want every anna we

can get. So far, calls on the fund have been small; we did not expect anything else, and it is when the war is over, when our men are discharged, without money or billets, some maimed for life, possibly, incapable of maintaining themselves and with only a soldier's wound pension, that we, who from circumstances have remained behind, must not forget the debt we owe these gallant fellows.

The Planters' Aeroplane Fund, owing doubtless to a feeling that the War Fund had a prior claim, did not realise as much as we should have liked; nevertheless, we were able to send a respectable sum to the Overseas Aircraft Fund.

Owing to the fall in value of Government securities, in which our money is invested, the reserve of the Benevolent Fund is less than last year, notwithstanding that last year's appeal met with a good response, which I trust will be maintained this year.

In thanking the Hon'ble Mr. Barber for the great help he has accorded me during the past year, I take the opportunity of congratulating him on his re-election as Planting Member on the Madras Legislative Council, and if I was not confident that everyone has already done so, I should think it a suitable occasion to doubly congratulate ourselves that Mr. Barber has been secured to represent us. Few of us, I fear, realise, I certainly did not until I was brought into closer touch with him and his work, the extent of the obligation we are under to him for his whole-hearted and unselfish labours for the welfare of the community. I thank the members of the Council and the several Committees, Mr. Anstead and Mr. Martin for the kind assistance they have given me. I am much indebted to our Secretary, Mr. Norton, for his loyal support.

The *Madras Mail* has during the year maintained its interest in planting matters, as in the past, and as, I trust, it will in the future, and claims our thanks.

The year's accounts are on the table and have been passed by your Auditors, Messrs. Fraser and Ross. The result may be considered satisfactory. Expenditure slightly exceeded the estimate, but this was more than counter-balanced by the actual excess in income.

During the past year we have had to record the death of several well-known planters, amongst them Mr. A. B. Boyd and Mr. H. G. Bonner, both of Mysore, Mr. P. Guard of the Wynaad, and Mr. C. Grey of the Nilgiris. We tender our sympathy to those left behind. We all heard with much regret of the sudden death of Mr. Harry Ormerod, who was for 15 years Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. He always devoted himself heartily to the interests of the Association. I am sure all present will agree with me in expressing our sympathy with his widow and his son in their great loss.

We are glad to welcome at this Meeting the Hon'ble Mr. Cobb, British Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg, who has already shown that he takes a keen interest in planting matters, by his gracious attendance at the Conference of coffee planters held in Bangalore on the 5th June last. We also welcome Sir Thomas Holland, the Chairman of the Industries Commission, which though it is not going to embrace agriculture among its deliberations, yet must discuss matters which interest this Association, since nearly all

Industries in India are ultimately dependent on agriculture or agricultural products. We are also glad to see the Dewan Saheb and the Director of Agriculture, Madras, and the numerous visitors.

We are living in terrible times. Possibly the worst is before us, we are a determined and united nation, and whatever sacrifices have to be made, will be made willingly, and we are cheered by the knowledge that victory is certain.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The Labour Department of the United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated).

Report of the Director.

GENTLEMEN,

I submit my report for the second year's working of the Labour Department.

Income.

	Rs. A. P.		
The subscribing area at the close of the second year was ...		1,01,666·43 acres.	
Subscription at Rs. 2 per acre on Tea, Coffee and Rubber ...	1,98,469 0 4		
Subscription at Re. 1 on Cardamoms	2,047 8 0		
		2,00,516	8 4
Entrance Fees on new acreages...		1,059	5 1
There was a balance due by subscribers for the first year of ...	22,480 15 6		
Add a refund made during the second year	64 8 0		
		22,545	7 6
		2,24,121	4 11
Third year's subscription received in advance		461	4 0
Total		2,24,582	8 11
Deduct first year refund on Cardamoms ...		1,845	8 0
		2,22,737	0 11
Of this the amount collected during the year was ...		2,06,294	0 11
Leaving a balance due by subscribers of ...		16,443	0 0
Interest received from the Bank		1,198	14 11
The Estimate sanctioned by the Control Committee for the year's working was		2,02,362	8 0

Expenditure.

The sum actually spent, including depreciation, amounted to 1,65,661 14 6

Which is less than the Estimate by 36,700 9 6 and was unspent partly owing to the casualties in the superior staff of the Department, and to delays thereby caused in the location and selection of subordinate agencies, with a few savings under minor headings.

Accounts.—The audited accounts in your hands show the position on 30th June, 1916.

Work done.—The number of undisposed cases at the end of previous year was			...1,150
The number of instances in which the assistance of the Department was invoked by subscribers during the year was			4,186
		Total	5,336
The total number finally disposed of was	2,403		
The number of cases which for various reasons and with the consent of the subscribers concerned which had to be dropped was	167		
		Total	2,570
Pendency.—The balance of cases about which correspondence, enquiry and action is still in progress is			2,766

Cash Recoveries.—The amount of cash which the Department recovered from defaulters and remitted to subscribers was Rs. 27,134 odd. Of this Rs. 3,500 may be considered as a windfall, being a large recovery from one man under exceptional circumstances: of the remainder only a few cases went as far as the Law Courts, over Rs. 20,000 being recovered by moral suasion or with the assistance of panchayats *ad hoc.*

The amount that was found to be irrecoverable by any known means was Rs. 17,689 and efforts are still being made with reference to further outstanding sums totalling Rs. 44,558. Total involved Rs. 89,381 odd. The percentage of recovery to demand is, therefore, about 35 per cent.

Defaulters.—604 defaulters owing Rs. 41,097 odd agreed to return to the Estates of subscribers of whom 463 nearly 77 per cent. owing Rs. 33,201 odd reached the Estates.

Internal Competition.—I have only got on record 19 cases which the Department assisted to regulate, but there were numbers of others not brought into our statistics owing to their trivial nature, and the failure of our agents to report them.

Unfair Competition was dealt with in 52 cases.

External Competition.—Deliberate cases of enticing our advanced labour to emigrate have not come to light. Emigration of labourers owing money to South Indian Estates has occurred in a few instances, and it has always been in cases where the people concerned have voluntarily joined gangs proceeding out of India in order to escape their liabilities. I acknowledge with thanks the kind and ready manner in which the Ceylon Labour Commission has assisted in tracing those who went to Ceylon, and in recovering some of the money owed to our subscribers. I have not yet approached the authorities in charge of recruiting for Malaya, owing to the well

known unexpected and unfortunate causes which demanded my personal attention.

Information was supplied to Estates about 2,044 Labour Suppliers, Maistries, and Kanganies, as to their property, solvency, character and operations. I will welcome an extension of business in this direction, as one of the first steps in the successful management of labour is to get an accurate knowledge about those whom we employ.

Laggards.—1,899 were hurried up.

Assistance was asked for and given to 1,048 Labour Suppliers, Maistries and Kanganies who were helped in all their difficulties. Petty cases have not been recorded.

Advice was given to those Estates which applied for it as to where and when to get coolies.

Warrants.—83 civil and 584 criminal warrants have been successfully served through the Department. There has been a great improvement in the matter of giving correct addresses of warrantees and this has facilitated business.

Since the 1st April a new departure has been made in the *modus operandi* of the service of warrants by the Department, owing to the energy and work of the late Mr. Day, and the kind and zealous co-operation of the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, which resulted in G. O. No. 101 of 12th January, 1916. It is sad to reflect that Mr. Day did not live to see the good result of his efforts to achieve success for which he strove so hard.

New Connections from New Districts.—A systematic and organized search for coolies entirely new to Estate work was made in 2,926 villages. Except in few instances, we have found nobody offering to go to work on Estates and those that offered were not always acceptable to our subscribers. A few actual cases may be of interest. In some parts we were met with the objection that coolies who had gone to Natal had never returned, and when we pointed out that we asked no one to leave South India, we were told this was the same story as had been told by the recruiters who took people previously to Natal.

In another case a gang on the point of starting refused to go because the Maistry's mother-in-law had just died : after close investigation we were able to prove that she was not dead, which called-forth from the Maistry a lament that the old woman seemed to have as many lives as a cat. Other domestic occurrences, which one would think could easily have been foreseen followed with startling unexpectedness, such as births and marriages, and until these very necessary performances were over not one of the gang would budge, finally the rain fell and provided work on the spot, so every one changed his mind.

Another gang travelled safely 266 miles by train, walked another 7 miles, and had still 33 miles to do to the Estate when they were set upon and assaulted for no apparent reason by persons who cannot be identified, and dispersed, the individuals gradually finding their way back to their village displaying on their bodies the marks of the treatment they had received. We failed subsequently to make any one else in that quarter see the advantages of having anything to do with the Labour Department.

To sum up, not only are coolies difficult to move, but when they are induced to do so, there are others whose interest it seems to be that they should not reach the Estates. An unpatriotic fear of being impressed for the Army, was also made an excuse for refusing to leave the villages.

These difficulties are to be expected in new districts. Once they are overcome, and coolies get to know the Estates, they will form labour connections just as valuable as those from old districts where we have been successful in starting new connections for several subscribing Estates. Owing to the death of two of our senior officers, our work was naturally seriously interfered with, as much of my personal time was taken up, which would otherwise have been devoted to this branch of our work.

Advertising.—The usual general advertising was done. Three Cinema films, Tea, Coffee and Rubber have been ready for some time, but the Bioscope Companies which used to tour the villages before the War have ceased to do so. Those that we have been in touch with follow the Railways, and cater for Railway subordinates and not for those whom we wish to reach. There has been a great delay in getting the coloured tin tablets, and after obtaining delivery they were found to be not up to the standard of the order. However we will find means to make use of the films and the tablets from now on.

Professional Recruiters.—We were not troubled by these.

Restriction of Advances.—We dealt with 83 particular instances. I regret that the appeal I made last year for combination in this matter did not have much practical effect. Both inside and outside the Department we met with a general expression of sympathy for the object in view. In some cases we were told that the present state of advances was satisfactory, in other words action might be deferred until advances were unsatisfactory, when to my mind the question will be much more difficult to deal with than it is now. The reason for this disinclination to combine to restrict advances is hard to understand. It may be based on mutual distrust, or want of courage, both equally unworthy motives. It is certainly not for want of a lead, which has been given so far as is possible, when those that should follow either hesitate or hang back. Nevertheless my appeal has done some good: there is an undoubted improvement in some districts, slight though it may be. In others the rate at which the advances were increasing has been checked. I think every one now realizes that there is some danger ahead, and more attention is paid to the subject than was previously the case. This is something gained, but we cannot be satisfied with it. I now ask District Associations, Proprietors, Superintendents and others interested whether they belong to Associations or are subscribers to the Labour Department or not, to make a further effort to effect a real and binding agreement among themselves to restrict advances, and loyally abide by such an agreement. Distrust of each other must be banished, individual courage must be shown, as it already has been shown with success in some cases, which will lead to a collective courageous solving of a great problem, worthy of a great effort. Now is the time, we have made a small beginning, why wait till difficulties increase? As for the means it is in your own hands, a loyal adherence to a combination on agreement arrived at among yourselves will do it.

Last year I dealt with the risks we take in making large advances. Our own, our employers, our shareholders' money is needlessly risked.

Another aspect is that a cooly has to be protected against himself. A man in debt is exposed to temptations from which one without debt is free. Coolies are apt to squander advances, it is a case of easy come and easy go. Wages earned by their own toil are better looked after. A man who has earned a competence by honest work is respected all the world over. One who has absconded with advances may be admired, but in India as elsewhere he is not respected. Our duty towards our own labour force is therefore to keep advances to within reasonable limits, and to give every facility for taking away a big cash balance at the end of the term's work.

Registration.—The thumb impressions of 965 persons were registered as a means of identification. The number is small, considering that subscribers to the Department employ about 100,000 people, and I desire to have thumb prints of every one of them. At one time the U. P. A. S. I. attached great importance to registration. A very cheap means is now available for the purpose. I request all subscribers to make use of it.

The long delayed Directory of Labour Suppliers, Maistries and Kanganies is now in the press.

Payments were made at the request of subscribers to a large number of maistries and others, a practice I would be glad to see much reduced. Subscribers are asked to note that it does not work out well in the long run to introduce a third party between master and servant in money transactions, and they should refrain from doing so, except when absolutely necessary.

Warnings.—Eleven circulars containing the names of 134 men who should not be advanced by subscribers have been issued.

General.—Over 1,000 members of so-called criminal tribes were introduced into the Anamalai District, which was selected as the one where conditions were most favourable for this experiment. I am glad to be able to report that so far it has been successful, and, as far as at present can be seen, they promise to be a permanent and satisfactory addition to the labour force. The credit is due to the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, to the late Mr. Day and to the several planters, especially to Mr. John Carless, who exerted themselves to overcome the initial difficulties.

Casualties.—In my interim report which appeared in the "*Planters' Chronicle*" of 25th March, 1916, I announced the grievous loss the Department sustained by the untimely death of two senior officers. I only allude to this again in order that my report in the Book of Proceedings of the U. P. A. S. I. may have it on record.

"*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*" Of the dead nothing but good. I wish it could always with equal kindness be said "Of the dead nothing but truth." Certainly nothing good can be said that is not true, and nothing can be said with truth that is not good, about our departed friends Day and Ward, whose capacity, energy and resource in working for the Planting Community no one can surpass.

In conclusion I acknowledge with thanks the kindly support and assistance I have received during a year of great and unexpected difficulty, from the Chairman and Members of the Control Committee, and from the Planting Member in Council whose time and patience I have often unduly taxed.

The Labour Department is also indebted to the Secretary, Mr. Norton, who has, in so pleasant a manner, performed the unpleasant duty of collecting subscriptions. I thank also all subscribers of the Department for their forbearance and consideration and for the kind way in which they have dealt with my mistakes.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
AYLMER Ff. MARTIN,
Director.

BANGALORE,
1*st August*, 1916.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, PLANTING DISTRICTS.

1*st July*, 1915 *to* 30*th June*, 1916.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to present to you my Seventh Annual Report. It takes the usual form, being a summary of the work done by the Scientific Department during the year under review, detailed discussion of pests, diseases, manures, etc., are left to be dealt with under their separate headings on the Agenda paper at the Annual Meeting.

OFFICE AND CORRESPONDENCE.

My office staff throughout the year has consisted as heretofore of one Writer and one Peon, and the upkeep of this staff was met, as in former years, by a contribution from the Government of Madras.

The Government of Madras in their order No. 276 Misc. Rev. dated 8th February, 1916, altered my designation of Planting Expert into that of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

Office work has as usual been heavy and it continues to absorb the majority of my time when I am at headquarters. 1,113 letters were received and 917 written during the period under review, these being by far the highest figures yet recorded for correspondence in my office, thus showing that this part of the work is annually increasing.

A record has been kept of the number of planters and others who have called at my office to consult me during the year; it amounts to 110. In addition to this I have met while on tour 139 planters.

PUBLICATIONS.

I have as usual contributed regularly to the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle* and have written, during the period under review, 80 articles, Notes, etc., comprising 125 pages of that Journal. In addition to this I have maintained since May 1916, at the suggestion of the Chairman, a regular weekly article dealing with Markets, Prices, and Statistics which it is hoped has proved of interest to planters.

By special request I wrote a Note on Soil Erosion for the Board of Agriculture, and a Note on Green Dressings in Planting Districts for Mr. Dobbs, Officiating Imperial Agriculturalist, which he published in his Bulletin on Green Manuring in India produced at the end of the year.

Tours.

During the year I have done a great deal of touring, being absent from headquarters for 145 days. The following districts have been visited in the order named, the Nilgiris and Nilgiri-Wynaad, South Mysore, Malabar and Peermade, North Mysore, the Anamallais. In the course of these tours I visited as many estates as possible, and attended several Meetings of planters and delivered lectures. I attended College Day and the Agricultural Conference held at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, in July 1915, on which occasion the proceedings were presided over by the Planting Member of Council; two Meetings of the U. P. A. Scientific Committee and South Indian Rubber Growers' Association held at Ootacamund and Quilon, respectively; I paid one visit to Madras to consult the Director of Agriculture, and a visit to Coimbatore to consult the Library and discuss work which is being carried out in co-operation with the Government Mycologist. I also paid a visit of inspection to the Government Cinchona Gardens at the request of Government, and took the opportunity to inspect the Coffee Hybridisation Experiment Plot and met there two Nilgiri planters who were kind enough to advise me in the matter of its cultivation. Finally I attended a Meeting of the Board of Agriculture held at Pusa in February 1916. These tours have necessitated my travelling a distance of 1,385 miles by road and 3,427 miles by rail.

Mr. G. N. Frattini continues to hold the post of Scientific Assistant for Mysore. As pointed out in my last Annual Report the system of dual control over his work is unsatisfactory and it has led to friction. I trust that this dual system will be changed and Mr. Frattini either placed wholly under my Department or withdrawn from it altogether. The existing state of affairs is unpractical and indeed impossible.

Experimental Work.

The effect of the European War has naturally been felt by the planting community. Estates are short-handed and unwilling to undertake much experimental work owing to the lack of supervision to give to it. The prices of manures have risen all round and many fertilisers usually depended on have been unobtainable or only obtainable at very high prices. Prices of our products have on the whole been favourable, but freights have increased and the difficulties of shipping have at times been considerable.

Coffee.—A good deal of work has been done on the Spraying of coffee both for Green Bug and with Bordeaux Mixture as a protection against the attacks of Leaf Disease and Black Rot, and our knowledge has been considerably advanced.

Manurial Experiments have been continued, but owing to the overwhelming effect of early rains and climate generally on the yields of coffee such experiments will have to be continued over a long period of years before they will yield any results from which deductions can be made.

An ever increasing amount of advice is asked for as to the manuring of this crop, and the introduction of manurial systems based on a preliminary soil analysis and spread over a number of years is growing in favour. Where such systems have been adopted and continued over three to five years the results are most favourable.

On June 5th a Conference of Coffee Planters was held at Bangalore under the auspices of the Scientific Department at which Spraying, Manuring, and the selection of seed and hybrids were discussed. Twenty-six Coffee Planters were present representing six districts. The Hon'ble Mr. Cobb, the Mysore Resident, was good enough to honour us with his presence, and Mr. McRae, the Government Mycologist, was also present. Dr. Coleman very kindly read a paper and took a leading part in the discussion. Judging from the number of planters who attended this Conference and the lively correspondence which has arisen out of it in the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle* it may be considered to have been a success and I hope to arrange during the coming year for similar Conferences of Tea and Rubber planters respectively.

Tea.—A leaf disease of Tea due to *Colletotrichium camelliæ*, popularly known as " Brown Blight," has come into prominence during the year and has caused a considerable amount of damage on many estates, especially in nurseries.

This matter was investigated by the Government Mycologist and my self in the Nilgiri-Wynaad and certain recommendations for its control were published. I am glad to be able to state that the methods thus advised have proved successful, especially in the case of nurseries. While on tour I have had several opportunities of inspecting nurseries which were badly attacked by this fungus which after Spraying with Bordeaux Mixture had completely thrown if off and recovered their health and vigour.

Tea Manuring has occupied my close attention and I think I may say that we have now acquired knowledge which enables us to recommend a general manuring system for this crop in at least one district which gives very favourable results.

Rubber.—The series of manurial experiments at Kerala have been continued and the results of two years' work have been published in the *Chronicle.* The work is being continued and a series of tapping experiments has also been laid down.

One of the most serious diseases of Rubber with which we have to contend is the Abnormal Leaf-fall. This has been investigated by the Government Mycologist who has succeeded in proving the cause of the disease and has done much to throw light on the whole matter. I should like to take this opportunity of tendering the thanks of my Department to Mr. McRae for the energy he has displayed in this matter and for the valuable assistance he has afforded us.

I am happy to say that a South Indian Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association has now been formed. Two Meetings were held during the year and much preliminary work done. I would venture to suggest that the Association might publish a small handbook dealing with the Rubber Industry of South India, showing the acreage under cultivation, the age of the trees, the yields obtained from trees of different age, and the cost of production I feel sure that such a book would be of great value and if laid before any Rubber Exhibition held in the future in England or elsewhere would go far to bring the South Indian Industry before the public. When present at the Rubber Exhibition held in London in 1914 I was struck by the ignorance displayed as to the size of the industry here.

Laboratory.

A special Report on the working of the analytical branch of the Scientific Department has been laid before the Finance Committee, and I do not propose now to go into details about it. Suffice it to say that after a number of preliminary unforeseen difficulties had been overcome an Assistant Chemist was finally appointed in December 1915 who has carried out his duties in an entirely satisfactory way, 20 soil samples and 59 samples of fertilisers have been analysed during the period under review and the sum of Rs. 744 has been earned in fees. The success of this branch of the Department entirely depends on the amount of work sent in, and I would ask planters to take advantage of the facilities now offered them and to send in samples enough to keep the Assistant Chemist employed and make the venture a financial success. The scale of fees has been purposely made low, perhaps too low, and it is only by working full time that we can possibly cover our expenditure.

The Scientific Department.

The re-organisation of the Scientific Department has been advanced another stage during the year, but War conditions are necessarily holding the matter up. The terms offered by the Government of Madras in their Order No. 726, Revenue, dated 30th March, 1916, have been accepted by the U. P. A. S. I., and the first contribution of Rs. 10,000 has been placed to the credit of Government. We now await the sanction of the Secretary of State to commence operations.

It is proposed to open in the first place four Experiment Stations two for Rubber, one for Tea and one for Coffee. In anticipation of the sanction of the scheme by the Secretary of State, and in order to waste no time when this sanction is obtained, preliminary work has been begun. The site of the first Rubber Experiment Station has been decided on at Mooply Valley, the land has been chosen and details discussed with the Directors of the Company who have been good enough to offer the land; these have been agreed to and the transfer sanctioned by the Directors. The second Rubber Experiment Station is to be situated in South Travancore and suitable land has been promised though the actual site has not yet been decided upon. The first Tea Experiment Station is to be situated in Peermade and the site has been chosen and this may be considered settled. The site of the first Coffee Experiment Station has not yet been agreed upon. The Santikoppa District in Coorg has been suggested, but no suitable land has as yet been offered.

I am happy to report that my Department continues to work in close co-operation with the Mysore Agricultural Department in all matters which concern both Departments, and they are many. My hearty thanks are due to Dr. Coleman, the Director of Agriculture, Mysore, for much friendly advice and help always whole-heartedly and delightfully given and I look forward in the future, when our Department is re-organised and established on a firm basis with Experiment Stations of our own, to working much more closely with the Mysore Agricultural Department for our mutual benefit and that of planters generally.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

The Planting Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER said :—

Before saying anything about the work that has come my way, I wish to thank you very sincerely, gentlemen, for the honour you have done me in re-electing me as your Representative on the Legislative Council. I have, during the past three years, found great pleasure in the work and this had been due to the assistance I have had from the Chairman of the Association and from others with whom I have been brought in contact during this time. It is pretty certain that nothing can be done without assistance in these matters, and if it be so fortunate that, in your opinion, anything has been achieved, your first thanks are due to those gentlemen who have given their time and experience, in order to serve you as Chairman. It is a pleasure to me that three of them, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Richardson and our present Chairman, Mr. Browne, are all here to enable me to tender my thanks. At the last Meeting, Resolutions were passed regarding the Cochin Harbour and Railways in Planting Districts. I take them together as they are interdependent. The railway referred to (the Manantoddy-Shoranur Railway) could not come into existence unless there were a harbour, while a harbour such as Cochin may be cannot well do without improved railway services to feed it. Within a few weeks of these Resolutions being passed, the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart, accompanied by the Hon'ble Mr. S. B. Murray, visited the Wynaad, with a view to learning at first hand the possibilities of the project, while a little later, the Hon'ble Mr. S. B. Murray made a more detailed inspection of the country, including the Ghaut section. Whether these projects will mature rapidly is a question of circumstances, whether they will mature at all will depend upon you, and the consistency with which you press your needs and claims. Mr. Richards, I see, is here to-day, and I do not know if he is in a position to make any utterance which will cheer your enthusiasm, or whether he would prefer to remain silent until times are more reassuring and promise better for constructional works. During last year's debate on these matters, a point insisted on was that we need a market, and we know that a port is necessary for such a market to spring into existence, a port that can distribute our produce to all parts of the world, a port on which we can concentrate our produce by easy communications. We who earn our livings in the hinterland of the West Coast are convinced where that market should be and how it should be connected with us. Perhaps Sir Thomas Holland will agree with our convictions ; if he does, all the better. if he doesn't, well, we won't agree with him, and will go on striving in our own way for what we want.

Apart from the interest in the particular matter in hand, Sir Harold Stuart's visit was of interest to the South Mysore Association and the advocates of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, in that he made public the view that the Madras Government had taken on this matter, and showed how ready they had been to give the undertaking required by the Mysore Government. The other railway project on hand is the extension of the Cochin State Forest Tram line into the Anamallais. The scheme has been put forward by the Diwan, and I am glad to say that it has the approval of the Government. While so near the question of commerce, I might refer to the Madras Commercial Mission to Russia, which has been sent under the auspices of the Government of Madras and under the control of an old friend of ours, Mr. Chadwick. the Director of Agriculture. We

were asked to contribute to this, but, as you are aware, our funds would not permit of this. Thanks, however, to the views taken by the Indian Tea Cess Committee on this matter, we are not left seemingly to stand as lookers on, while others bear all the expense, for the Committee are making the contribution from their funds which we could not make.

I hope the Commercial Mission will be a great success, but I feel that had we the market we hope for now, the probable results, from our point of view, would be better. If Mr. Chadwick, when showing an attractive sample of South Indian tea to some Russian buyer, could only say that an unlimted quantity of similar tea could be bought at Cochin, where shipping facilities were of the best, how nice it would be! This promised contribution is not the only interest the Indian Tea Cess Committee have taken in South India, the active pushing and advertising of tea as a beverage in the South has begun. I have not come across their activities yet myself, but from what I have heard of the tea booth at the Tiruppur Cattle Show, there is little doubt that the enterprise offers every chance of success.

In the matter of legislation I have very little to say. Some of the provisions of Act I have been called in question, and the districts concerned have expressed their views on the points raised. The West Coast Association brought up the Factory Act and its relation to rubber factories. This was particularly in regard to the Cochin Ordinance, but it raised the question as to whether we should ask to have rubber factories exempted as tea, coffee and indigo factories are exempted, in the British Act. Some consternation was raised by an order of the Board of Revenue, that income-tax was leviable on the profits of tea factories using machinery. This matter which affected the British District only is happily settled. Travancore has had its own special scare in the shape of a double export duty on tea, and this has been a subject of considerable correspondence and many interviews. A memorial was addressed by the Association, through the Government of Madras, to the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer, and he may have just received this. Any way, the subject is still under discussion between the Governments of Madras and Travancore, and a satisfactory settlement of the Travancore Planters' disability is certain. During last April, His Excellency the Governor of Madras paid a visit to the Travancore Planting Districts, and I think the thanks of the whole community are due to His Excellency for this happy innovation. It is ages since the planter was looked upon officially as a kind of political outcast; no longer will you hear an official say that the country would be better off without him. Still the extent of our activities is not generally recognised, and it is well for us that the head of the Madras Government has taken the trouble to find out for himself exactly what we are, and how and where we live. As producers of what the world wants we hold a position in the economical world that cannot be gainsaid. Our work is useful and we are not depredators on society at large, for our depredations appear to be confined to pinching each other's coolies, or perhaps enticing away some promising young Superintendent for work elsewhere. I hope, as one result, His Excellency's visit may lead to the even treatment of planters in South India, whatever be the Government under which they live, and I think a policy, with this end in view, is one that should be pursued by this United Association.

In regard to the extended scope of the Scientific Department, I am able to say that the matter has been referred back by the Government

of India to the Government of Madras, with some suggestions regarding the scheme. These suggestions are purely matters of detail, and in no way impair the utility of the scheme, in fact, rather the reverse, so there is no need for these to be referred to the Association, for they can be better left for settlement by Government, without any action on our part.

There are other matters, to which I need not refer now, since they appear on the agenda paper, but there is one more on which I should like to say a few words. St. George's Home is a matter which might perhaps be considered outside the scope of my work. I should have said so myself a year ago, but now I find that it is a problem of deep political significance and one which, because we are men of the race we are, we too must help to solve. Mr. Breeden is here to speak of his work himself, and I can assure you you will find him far less wearisome than I have been.

The CHAIRMAN having invited Sir Thomas Holland to address the meeting.

Sir THOMAS said that he had come at the invitation of the Chairman merely to listen to the proceedings of this Association, and not to give them an address, nor to forestall the findings of his Commission. He had undertaken his present tour purely to see people as they were and not as they were generally likely to be as witnesses before a Commission. When he came to a meeting of this kind he had the privilege of hearing discussed their purely domestic affairs among themselves, in a way that he probably would not hear if a Representative of the Association came to place before him the grievances of the planters of South India. One of the things that he had learned already from the Chairman was that the Association was successful in all departments and flourishing to such an extent that the Commission would be able to pass over the planting industry with very little worry. There were, however, some problems which would come before the Commission which would be of interest to planters generally throughout India. He had that afternoon been reminded of a few in the reports which had just been put before them. Some of these difficulties he had also heard of elsewhere. Some of the many difficulties of the Scientific Department, for instance, were of a kind that they had had brought before them in different parts of India. Possibly in cases of this kind, the Commission would be able to make proposals that would supplement the organisation adopted by the Association.

As they knew, a scientific man had got to live, something that employers did not always realise. When a scientific man was tempted by a small salary to take up a post, he did so with natural aspirations and ambitions that he hoped to realise in course of time. In course of time he began to realise that there was no outlet for his ambitions, nothing to justify his natural aspirations, that if he was not careful he would be running up a blind alley. If he was a good man, he would not stay if his ambitions and his prospects were limited and restricted. If he did stay, the chances were that he would stay with contentment and would not devote the same amount of enthusiasm to his work as he would under more favourable circumstances. It had been suggested to the members of the Commission that it might be possible to arrange for some sort of co-operation on the part of the different Scientific Departments in India, some under the control of the Central Government, some under the control of States, and some under the direct control of Associations of this kind. If

they could formulate a scheme by which this co-operation could be brought about, instead of losing their young scientific experts, they would find them developing interest, knowledge and enthusiasm in their work, to qualify to pass into positions superior to those which they first held, and they would have in a central body or institute scientific experts qualified to deal with all the problems that were likely to come before them. As he had said, a scientific man had to live. When a body employed one scientific man who was not an expert in all departments, he had to do his best. But science was rapidly becoming so specialised that most of the problems that were likely to come before this Association would require an army of experts and for that reason co-operation on a larger scale was necessary.

He had recently been told a story when he was in New York, which illustrated in a simple way the manner in which a man's pay affected his work. A friend of his who was a lawyer—he was thankful he had not many such among his friends—who had been in the Bermudas, went into a little church, where he saw a negro dressed in clerical attire. He said to the negro: "Who does the preaching here?" "Guess I do, boss," was the reply. "What do they pay you?" was the next question. "Ten dollars, boss," was the reply. "That's darned poor pay" was the comment. "Ah," came the quick reply, "but they get darned poor preaching." To this honest man the quantity of pay was reflected in the quality of his preaching. This was one of the questions that would be taken up by the Commission, namely, the question of the organistion of the scientific work in India with a view to its bearing on the technical and industrial interests and work of the country. There were several other points in the Chairman's address which reminded him of matters that were likely to come before the Commission. There were such questions as transport facilities, questions of railway development, the question as to how they were to get the best fertilisers, etc., and a great many other questions, all requiring examination and development. All these were questions which were likely to come before the Commission not only here, but in other parts of the country, and there was no community from whom the Commission would expect more straightforward evidence, no community whom they would trust more to give them better assistance than the planting community. There was no question that the planting community was converting ground, most of which would be waste ground, into ground that was producing something that would add to the wealth of the country, the wealth of the world. There was nothing but good to be heard from the community, and he hoped that there would be no one to say anything bad about the community.

There was just one other good reason for his coming among them and accepting the kind invitation to attend the meeting. It was for the purpose of renewing some old friendships made in days long ago, when as a youngster in the Geological Department, he was doing work in Southern India. He then enjoyed the hospitality of the South Indian planting community on a scale for which planters had always been famous. No one could go into a planting district without being treated with splendid hospitality. He had, therefore, great pleasure in renewing the acquaintanceships and old friendships he made then. Some of the men were present that day, others he was grieved to hear had been killed in the war, but he was glad to meet them all and to thank them for allowing him to attend the meeting (Cheers).

The Hon'ble Mr. H. V. COBB, the British Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg, said that there was some cruel fatality that dogged his footsteps when he entered that hall. This was the fourth time that he had done so in the last three months, and on every occasion he had had to make a speech. When Sir Thomas Holland and he were lunching together about a couple of hours ago, both had congratulated themselves on the fact that come what might, no force on earth would persuade them to rise and address that meeting: but the persuasive powers of the Chairman had been too great for both of them, for, as the meeting saw, both had fallen, or rather risen, to the occasion. He had, however, an uncomfortable conviction that when Sir Thomas Holland told him that he was not going to speak, he had already made up his mind to break the rule. From the character of the speech he had no doubt whatever that he had had it carefully prepared. Much water had flowed down the Cauvery since the time, 25 years ago, when as a *Chota Sahib* he had spent five years in the Nilgiri District, during which time he had been brought into the closest possible contact with the planters of the Nilgiris and the Wynaad. He learned during that time several facts in connection with the planters which were fresh in his memory to-day. He learnt with regard to work and sport that they could not be beaten and as regards their hospitality that was absolutely unequalled. So when he came back and found himself as Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg in the delightful atmosphere so familiar to him as that which surrounded the "planter *log*," he felt among old friends in an atmosphere of kindliness, sport, hospitality, practical efficiency and unbounded loyalty to this part of the country where they did their work and to the dear mother country that was Home. He was glad to find himself back once more among such pleasant and familiar surroundings. This being the case, he could only assure them that any matter which affected and interested this great community, which came before him in his official capacity, would receive his closest and most sympathetic attention. (Cheers.)

This closed the business for the day and the meeting adjourned till to-morrow at 10 A.M.

Second day, Tuesday, August 15th, 1916.

[COMMITTEE A.]

The general body of Delegates comprising Committee A met at 10 A.M., to discuss the following subjects allotted to the Committee :

THE PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that one Resolution on which he proposed to move on this subject was that a member should be allowed to pay the difference between what he had already paid in the way of subscriptions and Rs. 200 the lump sum required of a patron in order to become a patron of the Fund. The old rules contained no provision to this effect, and when he was asked last year if he would accept the difference, he was obliged to say that he could not as it was against the rules. He thought that they ought to accept the alteration, if only from the selfish point of view of securing all that they could get, because it might happen that from altered conditions or because a man changed his mind, he would cease to subscribe. If they did not accept the suggestion, they were speculating on the chance that a subscriber would continue paying his annual subscription.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) said that he did not wish to oppose the Resolution, but a point that struck him was that once a man paid his Rs. 200 and was entitled to the benefit of the Fund, he would cease to pay any further and they would lose the annual subscriptions.

The CHAIRMAN said that once a man was in a position to be entitled to the benefit of the Fund, he would not be in a position to pay any more subscriptions. (Laughter).

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that a point to be considered was if the proposal was accepted, whether they were prepared to grant a rebate to those men who had paid the patron's donation and yet went on paying their annual subscription.

Mr. HUGHES said that he knew of one or two such cases.

Mr. TIPPING said that on the other hand he knew men who had not paid the Rs. 200 and had not subscribed to the Fund.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that he had another Resolution to propose which was simply a matter of finance. Under the rules all surplus funds of the Fund should be invested in Government Paper. As all knew, there was a great depreciation in these securities, so he thought that it would be wiser at the present time to place their surplus funds on deposit at 4½ per cent. with the Bank of Madras. In order to do this they would first have to amend Rule 6 of the Fund Rules and secondly, in order to bring the proposal into line with that proposed the previous day by Mr. Nicolls, they would have to alter Rule IV so that the money should be deposited with the Bank of Madras, instead of the Mercantile Bank of India which had hitherto been the Bankers of

the Fund. He would in this instance only use the words " Bank of Madras " so that they could use any branch of the Bank, the Bangalore one for instance.

THE PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that at Ootacamund last February, it had been suggested that the *Planters' Chronicle* should be made more attractive, both inside and outside as well. With a view to carrying out the suggestion as to the outside, Mr. R. C. Wood, the Principal of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore, was asked whether he would prepare a design for the cover. He kindly consented to do so and the design had been made and sent to the photographers to be reproduced. The Resolution that he wished to move was that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Wood for his kindness in preparing a ' cover design ' for the *Planters' Chronicle.*

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) in seconding the Resolution, said that he had been asked by his Association to suggest that with all that had already been done there was still plenty of room for inprovement. If the paper was improved, it would be more useful and more worthy of the United Association.

The CHAIRMAN asked if any one had any suggestions to make as to the improvement of the *Chronicle* in respect of its contents.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) said that his Association (Nilgiris) thought that the publication of the market prices should be discontinued. They were published in the brokers' reports and it was unnecessary to reprint them in the *Chronicle.*

The CHAIRMAN said that he must confess that he was responsible for having them put in, because he thought that in the majority of cases the information in the brokers' reports did not reach many interested, the Assistants on Estates for example. Moreover, on enquiries he had made from Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co., for example, he was told that it was a very good thing to publish these prices. If, however, it was the wish of the meeting that they should be discontinued, this would be done.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that it was a good thing to publish these prices and quite useful. It was a handy way of finding the prices when necessary, and it saved the keeping of extra files.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON (Anamalais) asked what was the objection to the publishing of these prices.

Mr. DANDISON.—It is an unnecessary repetition and takes up space that could be used for other purposes.

Mr. C. LAKE said that he quite agreed with Mr. Dandison. Speaking for his Association in Mysore he said that they got five circulars by post all of which went into the waste-paper basket at this time of the year, because they had no use for them. He thought that the *Chronicle* might be filled with more useful matter.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad).—I don't see any objection to passing the vote of thanks, but I would like to ask the meeting if they would like the cover adopted. The plants don't look like any of our products that I have come across.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Perhaps Mr. Abbott misses the presence of weeds.

Mr. ABBOTT.—No, Sir, weeds seem to be the only thing in it.

Mr. L. E. KIRWAN. (Bababudins). May I say that the illustration of coffee lays the *Chronicle* open to an action for libel.

Mr. ABBOTT.—No, that is a tea bush. It has gone to seed (laughter). Has it been decided to adopt this cover?

The CHAIRMAN.—No, the question of its adoption or not can be brought up now and settled in open meeting. The only thing is that I don't know where we are going to get a better one.

Mr. ABBOTT.—I think the temporary design shown underneath is less objectionable. It never struck me that there was anything wrong with the present get-up, or that there was a general feeling that the whole get-up of the *Chronicle* was not as good as it ought to be as the journal representing the planters of South India.

Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.—I don't think that anybody else has had a chance of designing a cover. I am sure there are many planting ladies of artistic taste who could turn out something that you would prefer. Personally, I think it is pretty if not strictly accurate.

The CHAIRMAN.—Do I understand that the general idea is that we might invite designs? If that is the case, we must pay for one.

Mr. ABBOTT proposed that they should invite designs and pay Rs. 100 for the one accepted.

The CHAIRMAN said that as regards payment, he must point out that they had practically paid for the one under discussion. The gentleman who designed it did so voluntarily, but he asked that the Association should give something to the War Fund in the shape of tea or coffee. They decided however instead to make a payment of Rs. 100 to the War Fund and the money had actually been given.

Mr. ABBOTT.—In that case I propose that we cut the loss and go on with the old cover until we are in a position to offer another prize for a competitive design.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES thought that Mr. Martin's suggestion should be adopted. There must be a number of the community with artistic tastes enough to design an appropriate cover.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the matter had come up at Ootacamund and he had been asked by the Committee to approach Mr. Wood. He hoped that there would be nothing in the Resolution that would hurt Mr. Wood's feelings. Mr. Wood had taken a great deal of trouble over the design and had until then never seen rubber, coffee or tea. His opportunities of seeing them were not of the best, as he had only seen them on the Coonoor Ghat.

Mr. WADDINGTON—Nasty blow that for the Coonoor Ghat (laughter).

Mr. ABBOTT.—The simplest way out is to decide whether the meeting will adopt the design. If the general feeling is that the design ought to be adopted to save the artist's feelings, let us do so by all means.

Mr. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) said that he agreed with Mr. Hughes that they ought to thank Mr. Wood for his trouble and leave it at that. If in the meantime any member of the Association could procure a better design, let him send it up. He agreed with Mr. Barber that they should not in open meeting criticise Mr. Wood's design in any way that would give him offence.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said that the question might be left open. Although they had one design, they were prepared to accept other designs before making a choice.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that he had a good deal to do with the *Planters' Chronicle* and with Mr. Dandison's suggestion about stopping the publication of the market prices, he would like to say that he was responsible for giving effect to the Chairman's suggestion. He had received a good many letters from planters during the last five or six weeks saying that it was a good idea, because if they wanted to refer to the prices, they knew where they were to be found. Mr. Lake had practically admitted this. He would like to make one suggestion for adding interest to the *Chronicle* and that was that personally he would like to see if it could be done, say once a month, reports from each District dealing with agriculture in general and their products in particular, furnished, he would naturally suggest, by the hard-worked Secretaries of District Associations. In the *Madras Mail* and the *Madras Times* they often saw such letters from planting correspondents containing good stuff. Planters on the spot could write letters of this kind which would be most interesting. It was very difficult to run the paper unless they got help of this kind from outside.

Mr. ABBOTT said that he would like to testify to the fact that the *Chronicle* in its present form was interesting and very useful. When he was doubtful on any point, he wrote to Mr. Anstead, who was able in most cases to refer him to some back number of the *Chronicle* in which he found the information he wanted. It was full of interesting information to planters. With regard to what Mr. Anstead had suggested, he would like to point out that anyone who cared to write to the *Madras Mail* from planting Districts could make his drinks and smokes out of the work, but there was not a single planter in South India who would do this. There was not a single letter in the *Madras Mail* from the planting Districts, like there used to be in former times. If nobody took the trouble to write to the *Madras Mail* when they would be paid for it, he was afraid that nobody would take the trouble to write regularly to the *Chronicle* which could not pay for contributions. If they had special articles by Garvin or any other well-known writer, it would not increase the circulation by a single copy, because the paper was circulated gratis. He did not think that, unless they were in a position to pay, they could expect people to contribute regularly. He would also like to point out that there was a feeling in many Districts against people writing to the papers.

Mr. TIPPING agreed with what had fallen from Mr. Abbott. There were people who could write who did not take the trouble to write even to the *Madras Mail*, when they knew that they would be paid for doing so.

Mr. HUGHES said that Mr. Abbott's was not quite the right point of view to take. He was quite certain that articles from the various Districts, provided they could get the material and it referred to planting matters, would be most interesting.

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Mr. TIPPING agreed with what had fallen from Mr. Abbott. There were people who could write who did not take the trouble to write even to the *Madras Mail*, when they knew that they would be paid for doing so.

Mr. HUGHES said that Mr. Abbott's was not quite the right point of view to take. He was quite certain that articles from the various Districts, provided they could get the material and it referred to planting matters, would be most interesting.

Mr. ABBOTT.—The point is would you get anyone to do it? If they won't do it for payment, they won't do it for nothing.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) proposed that Mr. Anstead should be asked to obtain supplies of interesting bulletins from all the Agricultural Departments and inform the members that such bulletins could be obtained from the office for a small charge over and above the price at which they were published.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that he would have much pleasure in seconding such a proposition, if Mr. Anstead could in the advertisement columns of the paper, inform them of the various interesting bulletins on agricultural matters that had been published. He knew from personal experience, after he had seen some of these bulletins, how useful it would be to procure and keep copies of them. It would be a convenience if they had some guide to which they could turn to see the latest information on these subjects.

Mr. KIRWAN (Bababudins) said it would be better if they had a review page in the *Planters' Chronicle* in which Mr. Anstead could review these bulletins when they came out and tell subscribers where they could be had and the price. It would be much simpler than keeping a stock, which they did not know would be sold or not.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that he frequently did review these bulletins and say where they could be had. It was easier and simpler to do this, than to keep a stock of them at the office. That was Mr. Kirwan's point. If they wanted him to keep a stock of bulletins likely to be of use to planters, they would have to budget an amount of money to pay for them and keep them. He could do this, but it was for them to consider whether it was easier for him to buy a stock or for them to buy direct. He could easily put into the *Chronicle* a list of publications which he considered worth having and interesting to planters and he could also tell them whom they were published by and the price.

Mr. NICOLLS.—Would it be necessary to purchase them outright, or would they be sent to us to sell and remit the cost. If my resolution was carried, it would mean that we would have to budget for a certain sum of money to pay for them.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that they would not be sent to them in the way Mr. Nicolls suggested. The copies he got were sent to him as a matter of courtesy by the men who wrote them. He doubted very much whether the publishers would supply them on commission sale.

Mr. ABBOTT said that recently he had come across a pamphlet by the Indian Tea Association Scientific Department on root disease, which he had read with a good deal of interest. He found on looking at the back of the pamphlet that there were a whole lot of publications that he would like to have seen, if he had only known of their existence, but many of which were out of print now and could not be had. If he had known of them at the time he would gladly have paid As. 12 or the rupee that was charged for them. He thought the publication of a list like that suggested by Mr. Anstead was a useful idea.

Mr. NICOLLS said that in view of what he had heard, he would like to alter his Resolution to the following effect, namely, that a list of current bulletins of the Agricultural Departments be published in the

Planters' Chronicle with particulars as to where they could be obtained and the price.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON proposed "that the Association, while thanking Mr. Wood for the design that he had submitted was anxious that other designs should be submitted before making a choice, and that members of the planting community should be requested to submit such designs."

The CHAIRMAN said that certain suggestions had been made by one interested in a firm on the West Coast with a view to bringing buyers and sellers together. The proposal was that sellers having tea, coffee, or rubber for sale should insert an advertisement in the pages of the *Chronicle* inviting offers for the purchase of this produce and that buyers should also take advantage of the same process when they wanted tea, coffee or rubber. Probably half the coffee produced in South India last year was sold in this country. It was possible that the proposal was worth consideration. He would like to know what Mr. Hamilton had to say on the subject.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON said that in the face of it, it did not seem a sound idea. It would rather give buyers the impression that they were hawking their coffee about. He remembered a case that took place some years ago when a man put his produce into the hands of two or three agents for sale. The result was that all three agents trying to get possession of the coffee, went about pushing it and in the end it sold rather cheaply. He thought that published offers might have the same effect. Now a days business was done not only by wire, but by express wire and there were few opportunities for sale of the kind suggested. If a man did not get an immediate reply, the opportunity passed. Much the same sort of business would be done this year. Most planters had regular agents and, as a general rule, they found that these agents could get in touch with what markets there were. Speaking on the spur of the moment, he did not believe the publication of these offers was desirable. He would, however, think over the matter and let the Chairman know. He did not think that there was any chance of changing his opinion.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING said, *apropos* of the printing of the market prices, that he thought the Chairman had made a good point in stating that many of the Superintendents who took an interest in them did not get an opportunity of seeing the broker's reports.

The CHAIRMAN inquired if Mr. Dandison would like to withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. DANDISON accordingly withdrew his Resolution.

Mr. HUGHES asked for further information from Mr. Hamilton on this point of advertising for the sale and purchase of produce. He always understood that the soul of business was judicious advertising. If a man had a hundred tons of produce he wanted to get rid of and advertised it in the paper, the buyer, who knew where to look for these offers, could get into communication with him at once and would not have to go through agents or middlemen.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON in reply said that rates fluctuated, not from day to-day, but from hour to hour and they were not so large that it would be worth while telegraphing to the *Chronicle* every hour. Most planters

knew agents who were in a position to sell or buy. If the latter were anxious to buy, they could always telegraph. These transactions were not done by advertisement. It was perfectly simple for a planter to telegraph to the agents if he wanted to sell and for the latter to do the same if they wanted to buy. This was being done all over the world to-day. The other method in comparison was slow and cumbersome.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that he thought Mr. Hughes had made a good point. As planters, they were all sellers, and if they were in touch with buyers, they would get offers from buyers if the latter knew what planters were prepared to sell.

Mr. HAMILTON said it was just as well to look at the matter from the point of view of those outside. If they trusted to advertisement, they were very likely to lose the prices they expected to get, as they stood the chance of being shot at. He did not think it was sound. He knew of cases of coffee being absolutely thrown on the market. It was far better to place themselves in the hands of their agents.

Mr. ABBOTT asked leave to give his own experience, but before doing so he would like to ask Mr. Hamilton whether when he was asked to buy a certain article did he not go round and ask for offers in order to see what was the best price at which he could get it. He (Mr. Abbott) sold 2,000 or 3,000 lbs, of dust tea locally, and he had often found that by writing to two or three firms in Calicut that he could get 6 pies a pound more than the price at which he was selling locally. It was to get offers from two or three competing buyers that was the purpose of the suggestion that had been made. A difference of half-an-anna a pound on 2,000 or 3,000 lbs. of tea made a considerable difference.

Mr. HAMILTON said that the same purpose could be served by telegraphing or writing to two or three agents.

Mr. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) said that if one bought and sold direct, there was no middleman and no commission, whereas, if they dealt with a firm, which naturally had to live, where did the commission come from? He took it that the offer made by the West Coast firm was not the offer made by the buyer, but was the buyer's offer less commission. In dealings of this sort it was clearly much better not to have a third man.

Mr. HAMILTON said that the system might differ. There were some firms who were buyers direct and sold again. In such cases they had to make a profit in the form of commission which appeared in the account sales. Other firms gave the full price asked, but ultimately the buyer paid the commission in the form of an enhanced price.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg).—Are not the columns of the *Planters' Chronicle* open to any one who chooses to advertise?

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. TIPPING.—Then what is the object of this long discussion?

The CHAIRMAN said that the object was that the planters were not taking advantage of the opportunities of advertising which they ought to take. They were in the habit now of writing to their agents and had to take what their agents offered. They generally found next day that

a neighbour had got a better price. Whereas, if he elected to advertise, he would give all buyers on the Coast an opportunity of making an offer.

Mr. TIPPING said that his point was that anybody could advertise, as long as he was able to pay for it.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the remarks which had fallen from the Chairman raised another aspect of the question. None of them knew what their neighbours were getting for their produce. If planters could write and let the Editor know what local prices were perhaps, some of them would not be done so badly as they were now.

ST. GEORGE'S HOMES.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER, in introducing this subject, said that he did not want to say much on this subject, either in Committee or in open meeting. As he had already said, Mr. Breeden was present to speak on the subject of these Homes. He did not think that those who regard the problem of the domiciled community either in its social aspect or its political aspect could fail to realise its seriousness or importance. They all knew and realised that there was in India an immense number of human beings—he could not say how many, he was never great on statistics—of British blood growing up in their midst, who were growiug up under conditions which constituted a source of weakness, instead of strength, to the Empire, and it was to prevent this that Mr. Breeden was working at the St. George's Homes.

The Rev. J. BREEDEN in the course of his speech, thanked the Chairman and the Delegates for giving him the opportunity of stating the case for these children of the British race. If he appeared in doing this to be guilty of mental gymnastics, they must remember that he did not want to take up too much of their valuable time. Yet it was necessary to state the case fully, so that they might realise the importance of the work that the Homes were attempting to do, and the means that they were taking to do it. The decline in the social condition of this community had been going on for the past 60 to 70 years, and in the past many people had been afraid to touch the problem, because they imagined that it was so stupendous. He would say at once that, serious as the situation was, it was not so great as some people imagined. There were not more than 300,000 of these people in different parts of India, but he did not think that they need be concerned with more than the 42,000 children of school-going age. Of these 32,000 were found in existing schools and institutions, but from 7,000 to 10,000, or 25 per cent. of these children, were not attending any schools. Although these Homes were only started on the 23rd May, 1914, if there had been accommodation they could have received 300 deserving children already. There were now in the Homes 57, but this was because of the present limited accommodation owing to war conditions. Out of the 57 children they had in the Homes, 37 had not been to school at all. They must realize what a hopeless outlook it would be for such children if they were permitted to continue thus. He felt it was high time that British people at home, as well as the European community in India had brought home to them this vast and growing evil. He had found that wherever they had been able to state the case they had always won a verdict. He had often felt too that they did not realise the

significant and potential value of this community, which was scattered throughout the country. Its numbers were not vast and were not beyond reclamation and uplifting by the wealthiest Empire in the world. If the condition of the community was not realised, it was simply because they had not come face to face with the problem and its ramifications.

In all their efforts they had to bear in mind that the community for which they were working was British. They were taking into the Homes children of British descent. They refused to have anything to do with those who approximated too closely to Indian descent. His own impression was there were something like 30 per cent. who ought to be driven out of the community with which they were trying to identify themselves. Where the strains of British blood in their case had gone to goodness only knew. Just before the Homes were started, a clergyman sent to him a man with four children, whom he wanted to be admitted into the Homes. When he made enquiries, he found that not only were the mother and grandmother of the wife of the man Indian, but that the whole family was practically Indian. He said to the man "My friend, can't you see that as an Indian you can live on your Rs. 25 a month, but as an Anglo-Indian you are only a problem?" The conviction had been growing on him that it was an absolute necessity to drive out of the domiciled community those who in mental and physical make up were not British or Anglo-Indians, but Indians in ideals, outlook and ambitions. Some years ago he read an article written by a retired Indian Civil Servant whom he afterwards met at Home, in which the writer was trying to bring home to the British people the consciousness of their obligations to the domiciled community in India, the concluding sentence of which he was going to quote;—"O strong man, who with thy hands hast mighty tasks to do, behold thy hand faileth. Neglect it not, lest it fail thee in thy task." That was an appeal to the British to look to their own interests.

He thought that they had been blind too long to the woeful damage that might be done to the British prestige by the degrading and continuous decline of a people of whom between 40,000 and 50,000 were more or less persistently dependent on relief of some kind. They had provided for many, but they had neglected to provide rightly for the majority. Prominent men, responsible for the British administration in India, stated that something should be done to meet the needs of this people. It was a reproach to them that they had not done more. He thought that Mr. Barber had indicated the reason, namely, the impression that the task was so stupendous. As he had said already, when he told them that the entire task now concerned only 42,000 children, it was not beyond their ability, neither did it demand too great sacrifice. Some people said that it was not their business to shoulder the burdens of others, that they must let all find their own level. A wider view would frequently show that the contributing causes to a result lie outside the responsibility of the people who are suffering from them, and this was especially true of a very large proportion of the domiciled British and Anglo-Indians. They could modify conditions so as to give children their opportunity. They themselves were partly responsible. These 300,000 people were scattered in different parts of the country, and thus could not thrust themselves impressively on public attention, but the tragedy existed all the same, and it was this that prompted those who knew of the great difficulties of these people to try and grapple with the problem. It was in 1910.

after he heard of the splendid work done at Kalimpong by Dr. Graham that he had first made the suggestion to start these Homes in Southern India, and an effort was made to start a similar Institution; but it was not until an appeal was made to England, and Lancashire in particular, that sufficient money was contributed to enable the scheme to materialise.

He said deliberately that these people were not to be condemned thoughtlessly for their present serious outlook. Years before the mutiny they had begun to decline. Let them remember the conditions under which this took place. At one time, pure, domiciled Britishers and the Anglo-Indians had an advantageous position, because they were allied by blood to the ruling race, but with changed conditions all those advantanges disappeared, and the day must come when people would cease to give higher pay to any man simply because of race. There were also economic conditions which contributed to the decline of the community. He was a parson and did not know much about economics, but he knew enough to be certain that the fact that the community just now were nearly all of them consumers and not producers had something to do with their present state, and unless something could be done to transform many of them into producers, there would be little hope for them. Then there was also the educational position. He had spoken of children who were without schooling, what future could possibly lie before them, unless they were put to school? But when they knew of the condition of many of the European schools, under-staffed, under-equipped, with untrained teachers, the prospects were not encouraging. Was it to be wondered at that when Indian youths, highly educated in Government and Missionary schools and colleges, were sent out into the world, the sons of the British race, in competition with them, severely handicapped lost ground.

There were also the climatic conditions to be considered. He had moved about the slums of Madras and had seen the people in conditions from which there was no hope of escape, sapped of all energy, with puny children, handicapped because they had not been brought up under conditions which gave promise of better things. Then there were the domestic causes. It was too often said that these people looked on manual labour as an indignity; that they must have domestic servants; a boy to carry their books to school. But were they altogether to blame? It must not be forgotten that there was not in this country a section of the people analogous to the working classes at Home, whom they could copy. The only class they saw was the superior Britisher, who could afford to keep servants to do the menial work. Was it any wonder that they grew up under the impression that it was wrong to do anything for themselves? It was a commonplace of engineering to say that the strength of the chain was its weakest link. So if the domiciled community was to make any contribution to the strength and well-being of the chain of British administration in India, it was for them to turn them, the weakest link, into one equally strong as the rest; and that was the motive compelling them to go on with this task.

Let them regard the need for this work first as prompted by a selfish motive. If there was one fact that had come to light during the last fifty years, it was the solidarity of the human race. If they had solidarity of the human race there must be also the solidarity of the race to which they belonged. No part of a race could suffer without

every other part being affected. That truth was fundamental and vital, and in defence of themselves and their race it was essential that they should gird themselves for a supreme effort to do all they could to contribute to the well-being of the Britisher in need. It was a selfish motive, but it was none the worse for that. Next, there was the patriotic motive. They were very fond of talking of British prestige, but had they ever stopped to think how that was affected in the opinion of the Indian, who everyday saw next door to him the children of the British race ignored and neglected? It was to the Indian mind one of the most peculiar and inexplicable anomalies of British character that they seemed prepared to spend millions on the effort to convert Indians toChristianity while they appeared unwilling to expend thousands in the uplifting of the defenceless children of their own race and faith.

He did not plead for charity—charity, as some people used the word, was a thing he detested—but he did plead for justice. There was also the philanthropic motive. One thing was sure, and that was that the domiciled community as a whole had not had a chance. There were among them too many adults who were but drones in the human hive. Their case seemed hopeless, but they could not be turned out of the human hive to perish. They were in India as one of the results of the expansion of the British Empire. What they had to do was to concentrate on the children, so as to destroy the causes which produced human drones; and that brought him to the present activities and future aims of the St. George's Homes, which were to place the children, not in an Institution, but in a home, not in a place which bore the stamp of cold charity and thereby robbed the children of dignity and self-respect. To carry out the idea it was resolved to have in each cottage three ladies from Great Britain, two to be responsible for the domestic life, the senior to be called "mother" by the children and the third to be a teacher.

Although the work was still in its infancy, one of the most inspiring things was the new born love in the hearts of these children as they came under the influence of the brave women who had come out specially to do this work. They were going to try to make these children producers and also to get rid of the old objection to domestic work and service. How were they doing that it might be asked. Not by abuse. He had never found a person who was changed by argument or abuse, but always by example. They were attacking the old conceptions of the indignity of manual labour, and now, although the Homes had been in existence only two years, all the house work was done by the children. He had sat down to a dinner cooked and prepared by children who two years ago would have regarded such labour with strong aversion. They wanted to make these children valuable assets of the British race in India; at present they were only an expensive liability. If they asked why they wanted to bring workers from Great Britain, he would reply that, though it was expensive, it was a necessity. They aimed at evolving a new type and they could not create that if they had to cast the children into the old mould. Their educational work was going to be on the same basis, so their teachers would be from Great Britain too. Who the children were who were received at these Homes, he had already indicated: they were to be pure British or of British descent, and not Indian or those removed only by a decimal point from an Indian. Only the other day he had received an application for the admission of four children of a planter. The deceased mother was English, the father, a Scotsman, was dying

of cancer in the throat. At whatever sacrifice, he felt that they must take these children; otherwise, they would be adding to the reproach that sometimes assailed British reputation in this country.

He had come to the meeting to plead for co-operation in this effort to redeem little lives from the destruction which wasteth in the morning of their lives. It was not a work which could be done by one, or by a few: it was a work that needed the co-operation of the entire European community in South India. It was heart-breaking to have to say "no" to genuine applications, because they had no room. Their aim was to provide ultimately for 1,000 of these children—an expensive task, but it would be more expensive not to do it. They could not afford to waste wickedly human material. Many of those present contributed to the St. Andrew's Homes at Kalimpong. Dr. Graham had, however, most willingly and generously handed over to the St. George's Homes the whole constituency from Bombay on the west and Ganjam on the east, to Ceylon in the south, and it was from that area that the St. George's Homes would receive children as accommodation permitted. He believed that the help which was so greatly needed would be contributed, and that the planters of South India would be among the first to endeavour to overtake the need. Their needs had been accentuated by the War, but he had found that it was characteristic of the British race that as soon as a responsibility was brought home to it, it strove, at whatever cost, to fulfil the newly recognised obligation, and that was why he so confidently placed before them the just cause of the orphan destitute and necessitous children of British descent in India.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had all listened to Mr. Breeden's speech with sympathy and interest. He did not think that there were many in the room who did not feel that the objects for which Mr. Breeden had pleaded so eloquently and so well were good and deserving, and every one of them should do what they could to assist him. Of course, Mr. Breeden knew that the planters did contribute to their own Benevolent Fund to help the children of planters, similar to the cases to which Mr. Breeden had referred. He thought that the particular case of the planter and four children alluded to by Mr. Breeden was a matter that should be gone into by the Benevolent Fund. He would confess that he knew little about the subject, but after hearing Mr. Breeden, he thought the objects of the work were deserving of much sympathy and all the aid that they could give.

Mr. AYLMER MARTIN said that he felt a certain amount of responsibility in the matter of St. George's Homes. When they were about to start, he was asked to join the Board of Management, and, after getting permission from his then employers, he did so with the full responsibility that, as a member of the Board, he ought to do something in the way of work. Unfortunately, though he had often intended to do so he had never been able to go to Kodaikanal. He had not been able, therefore, to address his brother-planters earnestly on the subject in some semi-public way like this, because he felt that he ought to have seen the place so that he could tell them something about it from personal experience. However, it now happened that this did not matter, because Mr. Breeden had done this far better and more eloquently than he could have done. They were all touched by any plea on behalf of children, but there was one aspect of the matter to which Mr. Barber and Mr. Breeden had not referred, which was a very personal one to many Estates. They all employed a certain number of writers and conductors. He did not want to say anything against

these men, many of them were excellent servants, some of them drawn from the same class whose cause Mr. Breeden had advocated. They all knew the great advantage it was to any one of them to have men on the estates altogether "on the master's side" and not scheming against them. Perhaps, most of them present were a bit too old to expect individually to profit by being able to employ in the future children who had been brought up and trained under Mr. Breeden's care. But they all hoped that the Companies and Estates that they worked for would last longer than themselves and, in looking to the future, there was certainly a possibility of improving the conditions under which their successors would work, if the people they counted on were brought up and educated in the way that was being followed at the St. George's Homes. Their Estates would have the benefit of a class of men educated and made to feel that they have responsibility and had to be more trustworthy, perhaps, than most of those upon whom they now depended.

He supposed that the real thing that Mr. Breeden wanted from most of them was money. He thought therefore that those present, not only because their hearts were touched but because of the business aspect of the case in a few years to come, would do all they could to subscribe to Mr. Breeden's Homes.

Mr. HUGHES said that he did not propose to take up the time of the meeting except very briefly. He thought that the work that was being done in these Homes had a much bigger outlook than that sketched by Mr. Martin in his speech. He spoke from personal knowledge of the work done at Kalimpong. He did not think that anywhere else had he seen such excellent Homes. He did not know if those present were fully aware of the excellent results obtained by Dr. Graham, an old personal friend of his. The type of children dealt with there were those taken from the slums of big cities, but they were educated and sent forth into the world to take responsible and honourable posts. Some had gone to the Engineering College at Roorki and had passed out as Engineers, etc., others had entered the Army or the Navy, and some of the girls had gone home and had been trained as nurses. In every way the results obtained from the work at Kalimpong were excellent and praiseworthy, and he could assure them that if the St. George's Homes were worked on the same lines as at Kalimpong, they, as planters would be proud to contribute in aid of such excellent work.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he believed the Chairman intended what had been said on this subject to be transferred into open meeting. When he first spoke in Committee he did not remember one or two things that he would liked to have said. He had not known Mr. Breeden long, but one of the things that he knew about him was that he was inordinately shy. He had come to the meeting, as they all knew wanting money, but he would not ask for it. He hoped though that Mr. Breeden would get it. Nobody had asked Mr. Breeden the cost of keeping a child at these Homes; but he had asked Mr. Breeden specially about that and it was Rs. 35 a month. It was not a big sum, and he hoped that considerable help would be forthcoming from the planting community for the St. George's Homes.

The CHAIRMAN put the following Resolution to the meeting: "That this Association do call the attention of the District Planters' Associations to the urgent need of support required by the St. George's Homes,

and that all steps may be taken in order that they shall receive the fullest support of the planting community." The Resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the subscription list which had been circulated had resulted in Rs. 1,280 being subscribed; also Rs. 35 a month in addition from another gentleman to support a child in perpetuity, or, as the subscriber himself put it, as long as he could find the money. There was also another subscription of Rs. 5 a month.

Mr. BREEDEN thanked the meeting for the very generous response that had been made to his appeal.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE UNION.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) said that he had been asked to include a Resolution on this subject in that which he was about to move on the subject of alien enemies. He did not think that there was any special necessity for a Resolution about the British Empire Union, but he would call attention to the subject in his speech about alien enemies in open meeting.

Alien Enemies.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS said that he was not prepared to speak on this subject then. He would only propose the Resolution and speak on it in open meeting on Thursday. The Resolution that he had to propose ran as follows: "That this Association do strongly support the views, expressed by the *Madras Mail* and those by the Madras and Bengal Chamber of Commerce and do vigorously combat the admission of enemy aliens into India. Further that this Association feels that it is most important that it should lend its weight to obtain prohibitive restrictions against alien enemy goods in Indian markets which may be imported to the detriment of British, Aliens and Indian Trading subjects."

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON seconded the Resolution.

THE WAR FUND.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) asked if an explanation would be given in open meeting as to what had been done with the fund so far. It was unnecessary to go into the accounts, but it would be of interest to know what had been done with the money.

The CHAIRMAN said that this would be done in open meeting. He would, however, like to call attention to the fact that the Fund was not closed and hoped that the community would continue supporting it as liberally as it had done in the past.

THE AIR-CRAFT FUND.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that he would like to propose that this Fund be closed and that the balance of the money in hand be remitted to the Overseer's Air-craft Club.

Mr. TIPPING (Coorg) asked if it was necessary to close the Fund.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that it had been kept open now for some months, and during the last four months not more than Rs. 35 had been received.

Mr. AYLMER MARTIN seconded the Resolution.

THE BUDGET.

The CHAIRMAN said that this would be brought up in open meeting for adoption.

ELECTION OF THE PLANTING MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that his Association had asked him to bring up a Resolution on this subjcet, namely, that for the election of the Planting Member of Council every District Association should be invited, some time before the date of election, say two months, to nominate any candidates they wished and that only such candidates should be eligible for election and that the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. should issue the balloting papers with these names printed on them. He understood that the Mundakayam Association had another Resolution to move but he also understood that Mr. Eaton, their delegate, was prepared to support the Wynaad Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Nicolls, too, had a Resolution, but he has withdrawn it.

Mr. HUGHES said that his Association wanted it to be distinctly understood that each Association would have the right to nominate only one candidate. It was quite possible under Mr. Abbott's Resolution that each Association might nominate two or three or even more candidates.

Mr. ABBOTT said that the object of his Resolution was to get the names of any one who wanted to be Council Member. If a man could get any one to nominate and support him, there was no reason why he should not have a run for his money.

Mr. HUGHES said that his Association objected to this. He thought that the claims of rival candidates should be threshed out by the local Associations and that the man who got the majority of the votes should be the nominee of that Association.

Mr. ABBOTT remarked that until two months before the election they were not likely to know who the men standing for election were. It was unlikely that there would be more than two or three candidates, and it was very likely that the Committees would vote for the sitting member or for some one prominent amongst the planters. This election certainly did require a little consideration and he did not see why anybody who wished to stand should not be nominated. It was a laudable desire to be a Member of Council. His idea was that any man who had been properly proposed and seconded by two planters should be allowed to stand, if he wished. At the recent election two Associations absolutely wasted their votes by voting for men who had no intention of standing. All they wanted to know was who was going to stand for election. He thought that Mr. Hughes' proposition was a matter for internal arrangement among the members of each District Association.

Mr. HUGHES.—On your Resolution you might have two, three or more members standing. It would be absurd.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—Why?

Mr. HUGHES.—We would have the same confusion arising as last year. We were given to understand that Mr. Barber was the only

candidate standing. How the Wynaad and West Coast Associations went out of their way to vote for others we cannot understand.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that he thought he could explain. He was annoyed to see a small article in a certain paper which said that they did not know what they were doing. It was very well known that practically the only gentleman standing was Mr. Barber, but under the present rules that did not prevent any Association from nominating any other candidate. His Association acting on this rule, although it knew that Mr. Barber was standing, nominated another Delegate whom they preferred. It elected Mr. Richardson, feeling certain that if he was elected he would reconsider his decision. There was no want of knowledge, and it was quite a mistake to suppose that most Associations did not know what they were doing.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS agreed with what Mr. Abbott had said in preference to Mr. Hughes' amendment. He thought Associations should have the power to nominate more than one candidate. It might be that a candidate would have the support of one big firm controlling a number of votes in the Association. His nomination was practically assured. There might in that Association be another member, equally if not better fitted for the post; under Mr. Hughes' proposition he stood no chance, because his own Association did not nominate him, though if his name appeared on the lists, he would have a better chance of gaining votes of other Associations than the man who had the backing of the controlling majority in his own Association. He thought that each Association should send up the names of as many candidates as it liked. The weeding out process would take place afterwards. If men in the opinion of the general community had no pretensions to serve, they would not get the votes of District Associations.

Mr. HUGHES.—My point is that you should do all that in your own Associations and not bother the whole show with the names of men who have no chance of being elected.

Mr. NICOLLS.—My point is that the man who comes up will be the man who has been sent up by the controlling voice in his Association. It does not follow that he is the best man.

Mr. HUGHES eventually withdrew his amendment.

Mr. ABBOTT said that he quite understood that in whatever they did, they would have to get the sanction of the Government. He did not think, however, that the Government would like the present chaotic system of election to continue.

Mr. J. B. COOK (South Travancore) said that there was one point that he was not clear on and that was the value of the votes in the District Associations' elections. Did each member of a District Association have only one vote?

Mr. WADDINGTON said that was clearly laid down in the Government rules. Each man had only one vote.

Mr. COOK said that when in the recent election he said that it had to be carried out on the one-man one-vote system he was overruled.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that that was clearly laid down in the rules In District Associations each man had only one vote, whatever his

position or acreage might be. But District Associations having met and chosen their candidates the subsequent voting by Associations was valued by their voting power in the U. P. A. S. I.

Mr. HUGHES.—Supposing in a District Association a man holds proxies for various interests, in voting cannot he get the value of his proxies?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—If Mr. Hughes will read the rules, he will see that the votes in District Associations are personal votes. Members are not allowed to vote by proxy.

This closed the proceedings of this Committee and the Delegates adjourned.

[COMMITTEE C].

At 2-30 P.M., on Tuesday, the 15th instant, Committee C met in the Mayo Hall to consider the subject of Legislation. The Committee was constituted as follows:—

Chairman.—The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber.

Members.—Messrs. E. A. Hughes, A. S. Dandison, H. Waddington, T. C. Forbes, S. P. Eaton, J. B. Cook, W. H. Reed, E. Travers-Drapes, L. E. Kirwan, and A. H. Jackson.

THE SALE OF WASTE LAND ON THE NILGIRIS.

The first item on the Agenda was the Sale of Waste Land on the Nilgiris. On this subject Mr. A. S. Dandison (Nilgiris) made the following statement:—

We have been instructed by our Association to bring this matter up with the object of getting the present rules altered. On the Nilgiris (upper plateau) when one wishes to obtain a small block of waste land to round off one's estate or for other purposes, it is applied for and if Government are prepared to sell it, it is eventually auctioned, when any one, of course, is at liberty to bid.

Previously, up to 20 acres could be obtained under the Supplemental Rules, but this has been reduced to 5 acres only. The system of public auction is open to abuse. People who have not, perhaps, ever seen the land, bid up and buy, knowing that in many cases the adjoining estate which has applied for the land in question will probably pay a good premium to get it, possibly several times its actual agricultural value, if a road is required to run through it to join up different parts of an estate or estates. It is to stop this abuse of speculation at the planter's expense that we desire a change in the present rules. When the land required is a small piece, not sufficient to make an estate in itself, it seems to us that the adjoining estate should have the preference, and if you are prepared to sell the land, to give the adjoining estate which applied for it the option of purchase at a fixed rate or valuation, and then if the planter considers the price too high, it would then be at the option of Government to auction the land. In the case of two or more estates touching the land in question, it might be divided by mutual agreement, failing which anctioned.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER said that this was not purely a local matter. He thought that the Shevaroys and the Pulneys were also interested in the subject.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) said that he had not studied the question, but did not the applications come under the Darkhast Rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—As far as I know, the only places where the Darkhast Rules do not apply are the Nilgiris, the Shevaroys and the Pulneys. It is a matter for consideration whether we should not ask Government to extend the Darkhast Rules, so as to make the matter more suitable. In this case the land is untouched by Indian cultivators and from its position Government is unable to judge the value. We can't expect Government to forego the revenue it is getting from the sale of waste lands, but we, might suggest that a fixed price be put on the land so applied for according to its situation and value to the planter. The Darkhast Rules on the Nilgiris only apply to lands assessed at 6 pies in value, which is probably land that we do not require. The other point is that under the Waste Land Rules there is a supplemental standing order by the Board of Revenue which enables planters to take up five acres adjoining Estates without payment. That land is assessed at the Rs. 2 rate. It used to be 20 acres, but I don't know why it was reduced from 20 acres to five. If you don't accept the suggestion that the Darkhast Rules should apply, you must pass a Resolution in the form in which it has been put. As far as I can see these are the only two alternatives; either you must have the Darkhast Rules or an extension of the supplemental order to cover a larger area of land.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroys) said that he understood that the reason why the area under the Waste Land Rules had been reduced from 20 acres to five was that the Government considered that the value of land was increasing. At least that was what everybody in the Shevaroys understood and what they had heard unofficially from officials. Twenty acres could not form an Estate, and, therefore, there did not seem to be any reason why the Government should not be asked to allow the Supplemental Rules to apply to 20 acres instead of five. If a man requiring 20 acres had to apply for it in five-acre plots, it would take a very long time for him to get possession of the land, judging by the time it now took to dispose these applications.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER asked if the Committee was prepared to suggest that a Resolution which embodied the two alternatives should be adopted.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON said that he did not quite understand what was meant by the Darkhast Rules. Did they have any application to the Waste Land Rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—Yes.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES.—It means that under every application for land that land should be put up to auction.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—There is no auction under the Waste Land Rules.

Mr. WADDINGTON.—The Darkhast Rules eliminate auction; they give you a prior right to the land adjoining your estate.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON, accepting the Hon'ble Mr. Barber's suggestion, moved the following Resolution. "That this meeting suggests an extension of a modified form of the Darkhast Rules to apply, in

addition to the Waste Land Rules, to all planting districts, or that the Supplemental Rules be so extended as to allow of a larger area being taken up under them."

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES seconded the Resolution which was adopted.

THE FACTORY ACT.

On this subject Mr. Waddington said that certain correspondence had taken place between the West Coast Association and the Cochin Government about having rubber factories exempted from the Act which might be of interest. He proposed, therefore, when they were in General Meeting to make a statement on the subject. There was no Resolution to be recorded.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

Mr. L. E. KIRWAN (Bababudins) proposed with regard to this subject "That the Association accord to the Rubber Growers' Association and the Indian Tea Associations its hearty support in the efforts they are making to have the statutory percentage increased to 25 per cent. in the case of rubber and 12 per cent. in the case of tea, and that the Secretary be asked to bring this Resolution to the notice of the respective Chairmen of these bodies as soon as possible, with a request that they will press for an early decision, and that he also request the Association's representative on the London Chamber of Commerce to take action with a view to attaining this end." In doing so he said that the subject of this duty was becoming an intricate question; but he did not propose in Committee to go at length into the history of it. The incidence of this duty was the outcome the haphazard system of taxing additional profits made by reason of the war. In September last Mr. McKenna, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, proposed to confiscate 50 per cent. of the profits over and above those made in the preceding three years; in the case of Companies which had paid no dividends in that period, he proposed to take 50 per cent. of all profits earned above 6 per cent. In the last Budget the demand was raised from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. As regards the equity of this measure, it was conspicuous by its absence. It was manifestly unfair to penalise shareholders of Companies in the year in which they had just arrived at the profit-bearing stage, while leaving the older Companies comparatively entirely free. The tax also put all concerns with registered offices in the United Kingdom at a great disadvantage as compared with those having their registered offices in India and Ceylon. Also, why should Companies which had watered their capital escape as compared with Companies which had not watered their capital? He did not think that as a body they could object to the principle of the tax; the planters prided themselves on their patriotism; nor should they attempt to try and evolve some perfectly fair and equitable tax, for, if they succeeded, the authorities might say: "This is an excellent tax and apparently it is approved by those concerned, let us make it permanent." All of them, he felt sure, would agree that it was better to have a temporary inequitable tax rather than an equitable tax continually. He thought that they ought to support the measures taken by the various bodies representing their interests in England.

Mr. EATON (Mundakayam) seconded the Resolution, which was adopted.

HIGH COURT RULING ON COURT FEES.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroys) said.—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen : This question is of vital importance to all planting districts in which Criminal Breach of Contract Act XIII of 1859 is in force. The Shevaroys is one of these districts. We, like others, have been compelled to stick to this old Act, because the circumstances in which we are situated are somewhat different on the Shevaroys to what they are in those districts which have adopted the Labour Act I of 1903.

What these circumstances are which make Act I of 1903 unsuitable to the Shevaroys it is unnecessary for me to go into, but the fact remains that we have to stick to the old Act. Hitherto, when an absconding workman has been caught and ordered by the Magistrate, either to return to work or repay his advance, the sum expended in Court fees was always repaid by the workman. A circular issued by the District Magistrate of Salem, to his subordinate Magistrate has however changed this. I will here read the circular. (Circular read). Now, as the High Court rulings quoted in the Salem District Magistrate's letter show, the recovery of Court fees from the absconding workman is illegal. You are all aware of the large sums we have to spend every year in arresting coolies and maistries who leave us in the lurch, and it is only common justice that the man who places us under the necessity of spending this money should be made to repay it. Under Act XIII of 1859, an absconding workman loses nothing by his escapades during periods when a planter most needs his services, as he cannot be punished for anything more than contempt for failure to comply with the order of the Court to repay his advance or return to work, as the case may be. Prior to this he was not always willing to risk an addition of Re. 1-4 to his advance when he wanted to spend a week or two on the plains at some festival or other, or till some work on the estate which does not find favour in his eyes is completed, but now he does not hesitate to do so, and on the Shevaroys during the past few months it is quite a common thing for an estate to lose a large number of coolies every week. This means that if we are to keep our labour strength up to requirements, we must advance nearly double the number of coolies we would ordinarily require, so as to allow for absentees, besides which we must be constantly running to Court during the busiest part of the year and spend large sums there which we can never hope to recover, because it is not possible to file a civil suit against one or two hundred coolies. According to the rules enforced by the Magistrate on the Shevaroys, a complainant has to pay fresh court-fees every 15 days, even if the warrant, for the arrest of the accused is lying with the Police unserved and if the complainant knows that it will take say six weeks to serve a warrant, he has to pay three lots of court-fees in advance if he wants the case posted for hearing to a date six weeks ahead. You can imagine what expenditure this entails when a planter has a dozen cases pending on the file of the Magistrate, and, as happens in the majority of cases, the coolies are trying to evade arrest. Whether the demand for payment of fresh court-fees every 15 days is legal or not, is doubtful, but that is beside the present point, for, even without that burden, it is bad enough to have to pay fresh court-fees every time the warrant is returned with the endorsement " Whereabouts not known," which is what usually happens, while the cooly in his village is laughing at you, knowing as he does that you and not he has to suffer the loss of fresh court-fees each time. Before this when the cooly thought enough had been spent on his account in court-fees and he thought he could not afford

any more, he would turn up on the Estate ; but now he leaves and stays away just when he likes. Justice demands therefore, gentlemen, that when a workman places you under the necessity of spending money for his arrest, he should be made to repay it. Considering that this is the only punishment he can suffer, it is not much to expect, and I am going to propose that the Act be so amended as to make the defaulting workman liable for the court-fees. I am aware that Government are averse from amending Act XIII of 1859, but surely what we ask for now is very little. It is not a penal clause, and, after all, so long as a workman performs his contract or leaves the work he is doing with the permission of his employer, there is no necessity whatever for taking any legal proceedings against him, and if such proceedings become necessary, the workman brings them upon himself. I therefore propose the following Resolution :—" That as it is now ruled that it is not competent for a Magistrate passing an order under Act XIII of 1859, to make the workman pay the complainant the court-fees incurred, the U. P. A. S. I. are of opinion that in ordinary justice the defaulting workman should suffer the cost of proceedings under this Act and that therefore Government be moved to amend Act XIII of 1859, so as to make it competent for a Magistrate to order a defaulting workman to repay the court-fees."

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that it appeared to him that the question at issue was very small for them to be making this tremendous fuss about it. This Act had stood for a good many years without its being touched. Another point about the Resolution was that it should have come up under the Labour question.

Mr. WADDINGTON said that he was working under Act XIII, and the complaint made by Mr. Travers-Drapes was quite new to him ; he had never heard of it and could not imagine how it could be legal. He quite agreed with Mr. Travers-Drapes when he said that the coolies gave trouble by going away and making him pay costs, etc. At the same time he could not agree with the words " vital importance " " large sums of money," etc. On these grounds, he thought it was a case of letting sleeping dogs lie. He did not like Act XIII and he liked the Act I of 1903 less, but he liked both Acts better than none. If they asked to have Act XIII amended, they might as well ask for the moon. The Government would not amend Act XIII ; the fear was that they were thinking of withdrawing it altogether. He did not think the question was important enough to be worth while bothering Government into amending the Act.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, Mr. Travers-Drapes withdrew his Resolution.

MERCANTILE SHIPPING TONNAGE.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) said that the question he wanted to raise had reference to the present restrictions on Mercantile Shipping Tonnage. A large number of vessels had been taken up by Government for transport and other purposes and the consequence was that freights had gone up by leaps and bounds. Freights which used to be 30 to 35 shillings per ton of 50 cubic feet had gone up to 147 shillings, and, from what he had heard more recently, had touched 167 and 170 shillings. His Association had asked him to bring forward the following Resolution. "That this Association desires to request the Government of India, through the Madras Government to represent to the Imperial Government the necessity for steps

being taken to replace the losses of Mercantile Shipping Tonnage and thus to ensure the necessary cargo carrying capacity being available at the termination of hostilities to relieve the present situation which has caused freights on tea to London to be almost quadrupled since the outbreak of the war and which threatens to restrict planting developments seriously." The Resolution spoke for itself. He believed that the Government, judging from a speech in the House of Commons which he had read recently, so far as they possibly could, were taking steps to increase the available tonnage and were endeavouring to standardise a type of cargo-carrying ships; but he thought that interests so vitally concerned represented through the Government of India, would carry weight.

Mr. L. E. KIRWAN seconded the Resolution which was adopted.

THE IMPORT DUTY ON COFFEE.

Mr. A. H. JACKSON (Coorg) proposed the following Resolution.

Whilst recognising the necessity of taxation, and willingly paying such import duties as the Imperial Government have deemed fit to impose on the importation of Coffee into the United Kingdom this Association wish to bring to the notice of the Imperial Government, the present position of Coffee, which owing to the great restrictions of markets, and lack of tonnage, etc., brought about by the War, has had a serious setback, and views with alarm and apprehension the possibility of any further increase of the import duty, which would most seriously affect the financial stability of the industry.

Mr. HUGHES seconded it.

Mr. L. E. KIRWAN said that he thought the Coorg Association was discovering a mare's nest. There was nothing to indicate that a further duty on coffee would be imposed; there was, however, something recently about a reduction. In any case it was admitted to be on a level corresponding with the duty on tea and on cocoa. There was to be no further Budget this year and the question was whether it was worth while to take any notice of the matter.

Mr. JACKSON said that his Association was under the impression that if they took these duties lying down, they would be pounced on next time. He was not contending that the duty should be taken off, but they could not afford to pay more as their product was not booming like tea and rubber. Personally for 26 years he had sold his coffee through Trieste at £10 a ton more than he could get for it anywhere else. He sold it months before it was picked and was never asked for a sample. The whole of that trade had now been lost.

MAILS IN MYSORE AND COORG.

Mr. JACKSON said that this was a purely local matter. His Association wished to bring to the notice of the Director-General of Post and Telegraphs the inconvenience that was caused by the misconnection of trains, etc., bringing mails from Madras, whereby a day was lost. The matter had been under correspondence for the past four months but they could get no redress.

Mr. HUGHES said that they had the same trouble in the High Ranges and when they addressed the Postmaster-General the reply was that no steps could be taken to remedy matters unless they could furnish specific instances of delay. If they could do that he would be

willing to take the matter up and trace the cause of the delay. Unless they had specific instances of delay they could do nothing. The subject was then dropped.

THE EXPORT DUTY ON TEA.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) proposed the following Resolution: "That this Association urges, with reference to the export duty on tea from India, that a countervailing duty be imposed on all foreign teas imported into the United Kingdom." He said that he did not think it was necessary to say anything in support of the Resolution. It was perfectly obvious that the export duty was a bonus to all foreign teas exported to the United Kingdom.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he had made enquiries on this subject and found that there was an export duty on tea from China and Formosa, but with regard to Java, he did not know. He would have to make further enquiries.

Mr. T. C. FORBES (Mundakayam) seconded the Resolution which was adopted.

The Committee Meeting then terminated.

Second day, Tuesday, 15th August, 1916

AFTERNOON SESSIONS.

PROCEEDINGS OF "B" COMMITTEE.

Agricultural Matters.

Present—Mr. J. A. Richardson (Chairman): Messrs C. H. Browne, C. E. Abbott, S. H. Dennis, E. A. Hughes, J. S. Nicolls, P. G. Tipping, A. W. Leslie, J. H. Robinson, R. Lescher, G. A. D. Stuart (Director of Agriculture) and R. D. Anstead (Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts).

(*b*) *Pests and Diseases.*—In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Anstead said he had nothing special to say on the subject just now. Mr. Nicolls referred to "a Rubber Rot of sorts." Mr. G. A. D. Stuart remarked that it was an interesting matter, but had not been taken up yet for want of time.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—This is among the things that point to the need of a Mycologist. I have heard nothing in particular about the matter

Mr. G. A. D. STUART said they had been working at Tea and Coffee Stump Rot, of which this was a kind, and it might be worth while enquiring into.

The Circulars of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, were then discussed, Mr. Anstead remarking that he thought their issue had been discontinued as he had not received any for some time.

(*c*) *Fertilisers.*—Mr. ABBOTT said there was no Resolution on this subject.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—A suggestion was made at the scientific meeting the other day that I should publish quarterly the unit values of manures, so that when planters received quotations, they might have some guide before them; but the difficulty is to get at prices. At present the firms say that they don't send out price lists, but if you can help me out of that difficulty with Messrs. Parry & Co., and others I can then do it. I don't know why they should have any objection, because they are not committing themselves to anything. Of course, I see that if planters had these unit values before them they could work out for themselves their exact requirements and save themselves a lot of correspondence.

Mr. BROWNE.—Planters can work it out for themselves; supposing a hundred planters call for a hundred prices, Mr. Anstead might then publish the unit values in pamphlet form; but I really cannot see what objection they have to sending the price lists direct to him.

Mr. HAMILTON suggested a system of tables, and Mr. Anstead thought the idea was a good one and would do once for all.

Mr. STUART mentioned Mr. Woods' "A Note Book of Agricultural Facts and Figures."—14 annas, from the Government Press. They

have just got out a new edition as the book had been out of print for some time. It was also useful as containing notes on Surveying, Mensuration, etc.

Mr. ABBOTT thought that the reason why firms declined to issue price lists was probably because they had one price for ten tons and another price for a hundred tons.

Mr. ANSTEAD suggested that as Mr. Wright would be present to-morrow he might be asked in open meeting what the particular objection was. The trouble is that while they issue catalogues they are careful to say that prices can only be ascertained on application. It was obvious, of course, that they were aware he was not a buyer. Incidently, Mr. Anstead said he was thinking of asking Messrs. Parry & Co. and Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co. for samples of manures and fertilisers for a museum of the U. P. A. S. I. The proposal was accepted as an excellent one.

Mr. ABBOTT.—They might be asked to attach their prices. (Laughter).

(*d*) *The Pest Act.*—Mr. TIPPING said they had an Act of their own in Coorg.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the new Act had been accepted.

Mr. ABBOTT.—Yes, it is quite a harmless one.

Mr. TIPPING.—We, in Coorg, felt that it did not concern us, but we have had no objection to it.

The CHAIRMAN.—An Act is now before the Travancore Council on the same lines.

Mr. LAKE.—Has Mysore a Pest Act of its own?

Mr. ANSTEAD.—Dr. Coleman is drafting one now and Travancore is getting one on the same lines.

(*e*) *Rubber Growers' Association.*—Mr. BROWNE.—I have nothing more to say on this subject than I mentioned in my address. I think the Rubber Growers' Association is an absolutely indispensable body. The Association voices the requirements and difficulties of the whole Rubber Growing Industry in the East and probably its membership represents Estates which are valued at £100 million sterling. The great thing to remember is that it is working for the benefit of all interested in rubber, and anybody's benefit must be everybody's, whether they are subscribers or not, and I don't think that Estates should hold back. It is not playing the game. This aspect of the position should be rubbed into all those who are still standing out. It is very wrong that one man should benefit at the expense of his neighbour. I think that we should strongly point out that it is the duty of every Estate in Southern India to join the Rubber Growers' Association. During the past few days I have been asked by a man who represents two or three large rubber interests to let him know the latest on the subject of the taxation of excess profits, he not being a subscriber to the Rubber Growers' Association. As Chairman I cannot move a Resolution on the subject to-morrow, so I will be glad if somebody else will do so. There are many Estates in Southern India which have not joined.

In reply to Mr. Lake, the Chairman said that Mr. Norton would be able to say what percentage of the Estates in Southern India had joined.

Mr. ABBOTT proposed a Resolution that in the opinion of the U. P. A. S. I. all those interested in the Rubber Industry should join the Rubber Growers' Association.

The CHAIRMAN.—There would also be some ground for hoping that planters generally would benefit from the scientific staff of the Rubber Growers' Association.

Mr. NICOLLS.—I suppose you cannot compel a man to join? I think Mr. Browne wants to go further and see if something can be done to prevent information from being conveyed?

Mr. BROWNE.—No, those who don't belong to the Rubber, Growers' Association benefit just the same as those who do, which I say is not playing the game. As I have said, it is recognised that the Rubber Growers' Association is absolutely indispensable to the industry. I was perfectly astonished to read their Annual Report, and see what they do, and if we get our excess profits back it will be due to them. In those circumstances, it is not quite the thing for a man to ask for information to relieve his mind when he has not either joined, or has no intention of joining.

Mr. ABBOTT.—We may take it, I think, that the meeting has agreed that it is the duty of every Rubber Estate to join?

The CHAIRMAN.—Another point we might make is that, unless the majority of Estates do join, there would be no hope of benefiting by the services of a special scientific man for Southern India.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—The Secretary of the Rubber Growers' Association has sent me a great bundle of literature representing the nature of their research work, and in addition I have received some marked numbers of their publication for use in our journal. I think you will admit that this is extremely courteous and good of them. We are all going to benefit by this republication, non-members as well as members.

Mr. ABBOTT.—I would not emphasise too much the benefits which a non-subscriber may derive. I would avoid that as much as possible. (Laughter). Is the subscription very heavy?

The CHAIRMAN.—Ten guineas a year on Estates not in bearing and a proportionate scale for others.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—You subscribe as a Company, not as an Estate. The subscription is paid on the Company's outturn and after a certain amount the subscription does not increase.

Mr. BROWNE.—I should not like members to be called upon to pledge themselves not to divulge information.

Mr. NICOLLS then framed the following Resolution for open meeting which was unanimously accepted by the Committee:—

"In the opinion of the Association it is the duty of every Rubber Estate in Southern India to join the Rubber Growers' Association

enabling that Association to enlarge its scope of utility and undertake research work in South India."

(*f*) *Programme of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.*—Mr. ANSTEAD arranged his tour programme in consultation with delegates as follows:—

Coorg, Kanan Devan, South Travancore, Mundakayam, Peermade and Wynaad.

Mr. ANSTEAD explained that his promised visit to the Wynaad, 1915-16 fell through, because he had had to go to Quilon to attend the Rubber Growers' Association Committee Meeting. He was obliged to cut out the Wynaad and was very sorry, but would put it in his programme this year.

Mr. ABBOTT said that May was a bad month, but January, February and March were good times when planters would be there. In May, which was an unhealthy month, they were generally away.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that he would try and fit in the Wynaad about October. He understood that Dr. Butler might be coming from Pusa during October for a rapid tour so that he could not fix the dates just now. Mr. Anstead did not like making his tours too long as his other work was hung up; so he would suggest the Wynaad in November, Coorg in December, Kanan Devan in January and Peermade and Mundakayam in April.

The CHAIRMAN.—There is only one point more, with regard to the location of the Experimental Stations.

Mr. ANSTEAD said they were awaiting the orders of the Government of India. The Director of Agriculture would in any case want to see the plots.

(*g*) *Re-organisation of the Scientific Department.*—Mr. STUART said that Mr. Chadwick had addressed Government on the subject and a special Committee had considered the question of the Experimental Stations and they had seen the Government Order on the subject dated March last. It was intended to start four stations, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State. Mr. Chadwick, in June last had suggested starting work on at least two, and possibly three, stations this year. He then referred to the financial aspect as mentioned in the Government Order. He said that he understood that the scheme would go through very soon. He had also talked about it with the Hon'ble Mr. Claude Hill, who was favourably impressed with the whole thing.

Mr. BARBER joined the Committee at this stage and said he had nothing to add to the discussion.

Mr. BROWNE wished to know whether the subscriptions of the U. P. A. S. I. being now fixed at Rs. 10,000 meant that Government were going to take this scheme over?

Mr. STUART said that that aspect awaited sanction.

The CHAIRMAN.—In any case I suppose orders will be passed before anything is done?

Mr. STUART.—I have no doubt at all that it will be all right. I should say the scheme will be under Government, who will lay out the stations and deal with the estimates which Mr. Anstead has worked out for the buildings, and then there was the survey of the plots to be taken over and the programme for next year.

The CHAIRMAN.—I take it that actual working will commence as from the 1st April? We should like to start our buildings on the West Coast fairly early.

Mr. STUART.—We have asked for orders by the end of the monsoon so as not to lose a season that way.

In reply to Mr. Lake, Mr. Tipping said that it did not lie with him to select the plot in Coorg. He had written to his Managers and hoped to hear soon by cable. He would try and hasten matters and would probably have a reply before this meeting was over.

Mr. LAKE wished to know if these matters were to be arranged during Mr. Anstead's visit?

Mr. ANSTEAD.—My idea is to stand out. I think planters should decide where the plots should be and then Mr. Stuart and myself can come and inspect the sites selected and settle details.

Mr. TIPPING.—A Committee would have to be formed to select the plots. A desirable plot should be acceptable to both Mysore and Coorg. If a plot offered in Mysore were accessible, Coorg will be willing to accept it. My idea is that we should get a move on. The Mysore Association has already agreed and Coorg is willing to join hands.

Mr. STUART said that nothing definite had been located yet, except Peermade for Tea and the Mooply Valley for Rubber.

Mr. ANSTEAD—For the second Rubber Station one of the Rubber Companies in South Travancore will give a plot somewhere.

The discussion then dropped.

(*h*) *Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department*—The CHAIRMAN.—This matter was discussed very fully the other day by the Scientific Committee and you have heard the results in Mr. Anstead's report. The trouble has been about a man to work regularly in the laboratory. It is now clear of arrears of work and Mr. Anstead is quite prepared to receive samples and send out the results as soon as possible. Last year we made a loss on this branch and the question is whether it is to be continued? The loss amounted to about Rs. 900, but as a suitable man was not continuously available, last year's work would not be a criterion to go upon. There is no question that it is a great advantage to keep such a man for soil analyses and for the analyses for manures. The fee seems small enough, but the question will come up as to whether we can face a loss on this branch or not. Mr. Anstead tells me that if he has about 70 analyses the branch would pay for itself.

Mr. NICOLLS.—I see from your estimate that you must get at least Rs. 150 a month.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—Yes, and I have now got only one sample waiting in the laboratory.

Mr. NICOLLS thought that they could be certain of more work if it became known that analyses can now be carried on more expeditiously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Still, the result of last year's working is not very promising and I think we should have some Resolution to put in open meeting.

Mr. BROWNE was of opinion that the position to-day ought to be explained more clearly. They had now an excellent man from Assam who had accepted Rs. 100 per mensem and had asked for a share in the profits, without saying anything of the losses. Of course he wanted something to look forward to. He would, therefore, suggest that the Agricultural Department should take him over and give him credit for service as not being an ordinary probationer. If they could take him on that basis at Rs. 80, the Association would have Rs. 20 to pay Government every month towards his pension. The man does not want that and even if he went to Government employ, he would not be barred from seeking to better his prospects.

Mr. STUART.—They would put him over the heads of men in our Department. They would become discontented and it would not be fair.

Mr. BROWNE.—There is another point. I think we are paying on a very low scale for our analyses, less than half than that charged elsewhere. Shall we consider the question of raising our scale?

Mr. TIPPING.—I think we should wait.

Mr. BROWNE.—When we started this branch, I am sure we thought we were going to get all our analyses done free, and then we realised that it was not possible. All the same, if we sustain a loss, I think the Association should be prepared to stand it.

The CHAIRMAN agreed.

Mr. NICOLLS.—The benefit is very general. There is no harm in a loss in one direction.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—That is my view.

Mr. STUART.—Keep the fees low and if eventually you can't get it to pay, then drop it, or raise the scale, on a commercial principle.

Mr. NICOLLS.—As a body, the U. P. A. S. I. should be prepared to finance the branch.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—It means asking the Government of Madras to keep the matter open.

Mr. STUART.—I don't think so. The Government have not asked for any reply. It might happen that you would like to keep your own man. Another possibility just occurs to me. Would you be prepared to let Government pay the man altogether and take the fees?

Mr. NICOLLS.—It could not pay on the man's present salary.

Mr. STUART—We should see about a man. It will take some working out, but one advantage would be that if he wanted leave we would be bound to replace him and we have some senior men at Coimbatore.

Mr. BROWNE.—We would probably get a better class of man.

Mr. STUART.—Yes. Last year's man had just passed out. He had only been through the College course.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—Would Government accept our fees, which are so absurdly low? There is also another way of looking at it. Analyses are free in Coimbatore. Planters would want to know why they are being charged here. The way to get over that is important, although they sometimes wait a year in Coimbatore for their analyses. Mr. Chadwick said that the matter was turned down before because of that. The best plan is to carry on for another year and make a desperate effort to get in more work. The present man's year is up in December and we can give him two month's notice, but I don't want to lose him.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then there is no objection to carrying on?

Mr. STUART.—I will think it over and try and find a way out of the difficulty. If Government take him on Rs. 100, you will have to pay Rs. 25 extra for his pension.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then we may put it to open meeting that even if there is a loss, we are prepared to carry on?

Mr. BROWNE.—It would be a shocking thing to say that we canno carry on.

The Committee then rose.

Third day, Wednesday, August 16th, 1916.

AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.

Business in the forenoon was conducted in open meeting, when Agricultural Matters were discussed.

Dr. L. COLEMAN'S LECTURE.

The CHAIRMAN in opening the Proceedings said that Dr. Leslie Coleman, Director of Agriculture in Mysore, had kindly consented to deliver a lecture.

Dr. COLEMAN said that the remarks he was about to make could hardly be called a lecture ; they were more in the nature of a mixed grill. At first he had intended not to mention anything about the diseases and pests of coffee, of which he thought they had probably heard enough at the last Coffee Conference held in Bangalore a short time previously, but certain members of the Association had spoken to him and seemed to indicate that there was a certain desire for further information as to what they had been doing. He had, therefore, changed his mind, and in beginning his address he would make a few remarks on certain work that had been done in connection with the pests and diseases of coffee. First as regards green bug which they had still with them, he had sprayed a large number of new Estates, but he thought that most of them had lost the terrible dread they had three years ago that green bug was going to be the ruin of coffee in Mysore and Coorg. His remarks on this subject, however, would be confined to the conclusions he had arrived at in connection with the investigations made by his assistants, because he had not been in Mysore for the greater part of the year. As far as he could ascertain from the reports that had come to him, green bug had done little damage during the year. A few Estates on the inner slopes of the Bababudins had really suffered during the year. This was largely due to the fact that the fungi which attacked the pest had persisted after the monsoon had closed and kept the pests in check. He felt, however, that they still must continue spraying in order to keep the pests down. He did not think that they need have any fear, unless the rainfall was deficient, that they were going to suffer any great loss. It was an unpleasant thing to have about their Estates ; but they had a number of such unpleasant things and one more or less would not make much difference. They had also carried on investigations with regard to the relationship between ants and green bug. Most planters believed that ants were the chief spreaders of the pest, and his investigations had been able to ascertain that at least four species of ants common on coffee Estates did carry green bug. Last year he had been able to report from experiments that he had made that certain ground ants carried the green bug from the coffee trees down into their nests below the ground, and he had found subsequently this year that they did infect above the nests ; he had not found them carrying the green bug from their nests into the coffee trees, but he felt certain that they did so. They now knew, as he had said, that there were at least four species of Ants that had been proved to carry green bug, namely, the big Red Ant, the little Cock-tailed Ant, the little Stinker Ant and the

common little Red Ant. The first two made their nests in the trees, the others on the ground. He had also carried on investigations with regard to ant-traps. He wrote a short letter to the *Chronicle* last year stating that in Java they had devised an ingenious ant-trap in the shape of a bamboo tube which was placed below the surface of the ground, and was stuffed full of leaves, etc., to make a home for the ants during the rains when they were seeking a dry spot. They came across the bamboo, carried their young into it, and made themselves comfortable. The planter then sent his coolies to dig up the traps and throw them and their inhabitants into the fire. He was afraid that the device was not a success in Mysore; their ants were not as domestically inclined as were those in Java. In any case thay had not given up hope, but were continuing experiments to ascertain whether it would not be possible to kill the ants by fumigation. That, he thought was all that he had to say regarding green bug. He hoped within another month or so to be able to send out copies of a bulletin he had prepared on the subject. Its publication had been delayed by the fact that he had not been able to get the coloured plates illustrating it.

With regard to coffee-borer, another serious pest of coffee, he was afraid he could not say that it had not been serious. It had been very serious indeed. Some planters had reported that they had lost one-third of the coffee in their young clearings in three successive years, so that by the third year they must have had a new lot of coffee on the ground. It must be very hard on the planter to have to renew his coffee every third year. His Department had made one important discovery during the year and that was that the coffee-borer was found on trees other than coffee. It had been found on one other tree and that was known in Canarese as the *Kullasudli*, which was very widely spread in the coffee districts. He found that a percentage of the Borer on these trees was almost indentical with that found on coffee. He handed round specimens to show the striking resemblance between the coffee-borer and the *Kullasudli* borer. The *Kullasudli* borer after it was dead was found in the dead branches of its host tree and not in the living tree as in the case of coffee. Another important discovery was contrary to previous ideas held, namely, that there were two broods of borer during the year, one in the spring and the other in the autumn. They might take it from him that they need only consider the autumn brood. The only beetles that they collected in the spring were two or three old beetles. In autumn they collected any number of beetles; those collected in the spring were simply "hang-overs." This meant, of course, that the measures for combating the pest could be restricted more to a certain definite period than would have been the case if there had been two broods instead of one. They had also carried out a number of experiments with regard to repellents. He had tried a large number of repellents which had not been successful and the borer appeared to be too persistent for them. These repellents included things that coffee planters had tried for themselves including lime. The only repellent that seemed to act at all killed the coffee tree as well. It might seem strange that lime was not a success in view of the fact that a large number of planters had reported success. His only explanation was that those planters had applied lime at the same time as they had scraped the trees. When they had two factors like this, of course, it was impossible to tell which was responsible. As a matter of fact he had found that scrubbing and scraping the bark of the tree was a distinct advantage. The only thing that he could recommend was that this should be done. If it

was done on a large scale, they would get some result. The time at which it should be done was a matter of some importance. As far as he could find out, the borer emerged from the trees starting about the middle of October and finished by the middle of December. They might vary under different conditions on different Estates, but he thought the main emergence came between October and November, so that they had a fixed time between which the scraping of the bark might be successful. As regards the laying of the eggs, they found that the beetle was not particular and did not insert the eggs beneath the surface. Scraping and scrubbing if properly done would destroy a large number of eggs as well. The question of the cost of these operations, he would leave to the planters. He found in the case of his experiments that a cooly could do from 150 to 200 trees a day, but these were not full grown trees like they had on an Estate. His Senior Assistant was hopeful about being able to apply something that would reach the larvæ after they had emerged and still not kill the tree, but he was sceptical. As a matter of fact the larvæ did not penetrate deep for about two months. After the first fifteen days they could be reached by ordinary scrubbing. It was just possible though that they might find some chemical which would not injure the coffee tree and yet kill the larvæ by getting in through the tunnels by which the larvæ entered.

He did not think that he need say anything about the black rot fungus disease, because the matter was brought up at the special coffee planters meeting in June.

What he wanted to speak about more generally was the subject of the relations of planters to agricultural work in India. The planters in South India had, up to the present, occupied an anomalous position. They were undoubtedly agriculturists and agriculturists on a large scale, and had enriched the country to an enormous extent. Yet, if they compared their treatment by Government with that received by the planters in Java for instance, he felt compelled to admit that they had been treated with scant justice. They found in Java a large number of experimental stations which had largely to do with planters' crops. It was plain that they were looked on as agriculturists, and as agriculturists, they received assistance from the Government just as any other body of agriculturists. That was the way a Government should view any large body of agriculturists. The reason why planters had been allowed to go their own way was first of all, that the amount of money available was not large and secondly the scientific men available were few, so that the small interests had to give way to the large. When the U. P. A. S. I. Scientific Department came into existence a few years ago a slight change came over the situation. The Governments in South India then recognised at last to some slight extent their obligations to help and they gave certain small contributions towards the Scientific Department. Now within the last year the Madras Government has gone a step further and had accepted the re-organisation scheme, by which the Scientific Department of the Association had become practically a part of the Madras Agricultural Department, whereby they had come into line with other agriculturists in India. They would have all the privileges that other agriculturists had of obtaining all the Scientific advice they needed; they would have their owu Experimental Stations, where all their crops would be dealt with by men properly qualified to carry on these experiments. At the same time as they were given these privileges, he presumed that they would also have duties thrust on them. There

had been a feeling in the past that the planter had existed in a state of splendid isolation. It was possible that there was a feeling on the part of Government that the planter had been apt to view the agricultural industry in India in too narrow a light and had not considered that part of the agricultural industry lying outside his immediate concerns. But if they became part of the Agricultural Department, they must of necessity take an interest in the general agricultural development of the country. He thought it would be a fortunate thing both for themselves and for agriculture if they did so. He did not know if the planters had ever considered the fact, but he had been thinking it over very carefully for the past two months. They had in the U. P. A. S. I. a large body of men who had spent the best years of their life in the country and during that time they have gathered an immense amount of experience which was a closed book to him and other agricultural officers in India. These officers felt that they were surrounded by men who were accustomed to deal with large questions, and it stood to reason that the experience that they had gained was such as to fit them to give opinions which would be of value in the development of the agricultural resources of the country that immediately surrounded them. Take the conditions as they existed in Mysore, the Mysore planter was as a rule restricted to the western part of the State, where but for the planters Estates, agriculture and the people were in a most backward and miserable state. He thought they would all agee that these conditions ought not to exist and he hoped that they would all help him to remedy this state of things. There were many things involved, nevertheless he did not think that that should prevent them trying to do something for that country. He felt strongly and he had done so ever since he had visited the Mysore-Malnaad that it was the coming country of the Mysore State.

Its agricultural resources were enormous if properly developed and he felt strongly that from now on the planters should take a more active interest in its development. They might reply:—"That is all very well, we have heard that before, but what can we do?" There were one or two things they could do. In the first place they had an unequalled knowledge of the country and could be trusted to give an unbiassed opinion as regards the needs of the country. This opinion had not been obtained up to the present. In the next place most planters had control over very large areas upon which so-called ryots' crops could be grown. His experience was that most planters looked upon this land as not worth considering. He had no doubt that a large mumber of planters had bigger areas under paddy and areas suitable for sugarcane than the most extensive Malnaad landowner, and yet very few were doing anything more than letting it out from year to year. The planters would probably say that they had not the time for this sort of thing; but he always found a saying of an old Professor of his to be very true and that was that if you want a thing done don't go to the man who had nothing to do, but to the busy man, who could always find time to do something more. That was the reason why he came to the planters. He felt certain that they could find enough time to devote to this work and get very appreciable results. His difficulty in the Malnaad was to get people to carry on continuous demonstration. The average Mysore ryot could be persuaded to carry an experiment through for a year, but if it was not an unqualified success they might bet that the next year he would not do anything more. The knowledge, experience and education of

the planters were the factors that made for success. He was particularly anxious that they should help in the extension of sugarcane cultivation. Some had no doubt burnt their fingers growing this crop, but there could be no question that if they went about it the right way it was highly profitable. The conditions in the western parts of Mysore were ideal for the cultivation of sugarcane. He would lay it before them that it was really their duty to do something to help the Agricultural Departments. Those Departments were trying to help the planter, who was about to obtain more help soon. The conditions were going to be much more favourable than hitherto. In conclusion, there were signs already that the Mysore Government appreciated the need of advice from the planting community and he was able to say that their Chairman had been appointed a member of the Agricultural Committee of the Economic Conference. He appreciated Mr. Browne's public-spiritedness in taking up this work in addition to the many other duties with which he was already burdened.

The CHAIRMAN said that they were all indebted to Dr. Coleman for the interesting lecture which he had given. He hoped that all had listened with much attention to what he had said and would bear it in mind and see in what way they could carry out the ideas he had suggested. Of course with regard to agriculture in the Malnaad and the schemes for improving it, it was a fact that most of the Indian planters had got their experience under Europeans and had copied European methods of cultivating coffee. He generally found that if he suggested to any of the local ryots any improvement in the method of cultivating his paddy, he was plainly told that he knew nothing about it.

Dr. COLEMAN.—That was also the experience of the Department.

The CHAIRMAN continuing said that the ryot practically told him to go on in his own way with coffee, as he knew something about that; but when it was a question of paddy cultivation, the matter was best left to the ryot. The ryots were very conservative about taking advice, but if they could see any benefit to be derived from any change or new method, they were quick to take advantage of it. If the Mysore Government would establish one or two Experimental Stations on the Malnaad, the ryots would be quick to copy what they saw was beneficial to them. They would not adopt any suggestion until it was proved a good thing.

Dr. COLEMAN said he was himself very chary of giving the ryot advice. His policy was to show the ryot on the latter's own land and in an Experimental Station what was wanted. The idea was not that the planter should talk to the ryot, but that he should devote a certain amount of his own land to demonstration purposes. He might make a failure of it, but on the other hand he might do much good. He was perfectly aware that the planters had done much in the way of improvement of coffee cultivation on Indian Coffee Estates. Really the Mysore Agricultural Department owed its existence to the U. P. A. S. I. He, therefore, owed a special debt of gratitude to the Association for this good impulse to the improvement of agriculture in Mysore.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that it usually fell to his lot to open the scientific side of the discussion that followed Dr. Coleman's lecture, and from that point of view he had a legitimate grouse against Dr. Coleman for making all that he said so delightfully full and clear that he did not leave anybody an opportunity of saying anything. On the question of

coffee-borer, there was one point he would like to make and that was as regards the use of Jeyes' fluid as a repellent. Perhaps some coffee-planter who had tried it would be able to say whether it was a success. Then with regard to scraping, he understood Dr. Coleman to say that it was the scraping and not the lime that had been a success. The scraping and liming was his own idea; his motive in using lime was that it would keep the stem cleaner and discourage the growth of *algæ* and mosses, etc. The other point to be considered was the time at which this scraping should be done. He thought the question that ought to be enquired into in this connection was how much varying rainfall, elevation and different locations and soils affected the life history of the borer, when it was in flight or when it was laying eggs.

Dr. COLEMAN said these were all interesting points on which he looked to the planters to give him information.

After some further discussion, the matter was allowed to drop.

MR. MACRAE'S LECTURE.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Macrae had travelled all the way from Coimbatore for this special occasion and had been kind enough to consent to give them the benefit of his investigations into the question of the abnormal leaf-fall in rubber.

Mr. MACRAE accordingly read the following notes on Phytophthora on Hevea brasiliensis:—

Hevea brasiliensis in South India has recently become attacked by a fungus hitherto little known on rubber plantations. The disease occurs in most of the rubber growing arrears, viz: Travancore, Cochin, Malabar and the Anamalais. As far as my information goes, it appears to be wide spread in these Districts, most of the Estates having it to some extent in one form or another. It was first definitely noticed in 1913 as a fruit-rot but has now, in addition, become noticeable as an abnormal shedding of leaves during the monsoon from June to August. This phase of the disease is known to planters by various names as second leaf-fall, monsoon leaf-fall and abnormal leaf-fall. In this paper it will be called "abnormal leaf-fall." In December and January Hevea sheds its leaves and this is a natural phenomenon usually called "wintering." All or nearly all the leaves fall then. Sometimes all the leaves are shed from the trees before the new flush appears, but in many trees the new flush of leaves is coming on, while the old ones are falling. The leaves assume various shades of yellow, brown and red and the phenomenon is comparable to the wintering of deciduous trees of temperate regions.

The field characters of the disease as known at present may be given chronologically though this is not the order in which they have been investigated. Branches that have suffered heavily from abnormal leaf-fall during the monsoon often die-back during the ensuing cold weather. From the living proximal regions of such branches fresh shoots are produced about the middle of February and begin to wilt about the middle of March. Tiny droplets of latex may appear on the leaves and leaf-stalks. The leaflets shrivel, dry up and fall off, leaving the leaf-stalk attached to the twig for some time, or the leaf may fall off as a whole. The lowest two or three centimeters of these shoots soon become discoloured and the shoot ultimately dies back to its parent branch.

During May and June leaves on some branches become yellow. This is seen more frequently during the showers that precede the monsoon. It occurs only here and there and does not attract much attention. From about the middle to the end of June, or in other words about a fortnight after the monsoon bursts, the fruits, on infected trees begin to show dull ashy-grey portions on their surfaces. The discoloured part is slightly wrinkled and sunk a little below the surface level of the healthy part of the fruit. It frequently appears at the proximal or stalk-end of the fruit and gradually extends downwards and laterally till the whole fruit is covered. Sometimes, however, it appears first on the side of the fruit or at its distal end. Several discoloured spots may appear and run together. Drops of latex appear here and there on the surface and gradually turn black. The outer covering of the fruit becomes dark and sodden and infected by a soft rot. It splits along the three sutures (or cracks) exposing the capsule within and remains attached to it. The capsule often does not split and the seeds either never form or become rotten. The decayed fruit hangs on the tree for a considerable time then falls off leaving the stock attached to the branch, but it may hang on the tree even till the next season.

A few days after the dull ashy-grey colour appears, especially during a break in the monsoon when there is little or no rain for a day or two, the infected surface becomes covered with a thin incrustation which is white when dry. This consists of the mycelium of a Phytophthora with a most copious formation of spores. About a fortnight after the monsoon has set in steadily and soon after the fruit-rot has appeared infected trees begin to shed their leaves, a few at first then in gradually increasing numbers and this goes on for about a month or even six weeks. It is most noticeable from the middle of July to the middle of August, after which time the trees cease to shed their leaves to any appreciable extent. Some trees lose all their leaves and stand quite bare with the rotting fruit showing conspicuously; but most lose only a portion of their leaves. By August the mass of leaves on the trees looks decidedly thin and the ground is covered by a thick coating of fallen leaves. They sometimes become yellow before they fall as they do in the normal periodic leaf-fall in December-January, but they may be quite green when they fall. There is often a discoloured spot on the leaf-stalk but that is not always present.

After this second and abnormal leaf-fall a new flush of leaves appears and the trees look quite normal again, except for the considerable number of dead twigs that are present. This abormal leaf-fall usually occurs first on Hevea trees when they come into the fruiting stage which is in South India usually about the 5th year. Then, however, it is the fruit-rot that is most in evidence while in succeeding years the abnormal leaf-fall becomes more noticeable. Younger Hevea does not usually have this abnormal leaf-fall though it has been seen occasionally on individual trees and groups of trees before they reach the fruiting stage and in one instance on a few trees that had been planted only two years, but it had not been found in nurseries.

After the leaves have all fallen off, the current year's branches often die-back during the monsoon, and this dying back may proceed along the larger branches during the ensuing cold weather. During the heaviest part of the monsoon when trunks of trees are continually wet a slight rot sometimes appears on or near the tapping cut. The bark becomes soft and dark coloured and this may extend

for some distance along the cut and upwards from it in dark coloured streaks. I believe that all these manifestations of disease are caused by one and the same fungus.

The loss caused by this disease is not easy to estimate, as the disease has attacked rubber in South India in the early years of the industry, so that it is difficult to tell the yields that may normally be expected. Still-after talking with rubber planters and taking everything into consideration, I think the following estimate,—call it guess if you choose—is fairly near. In badly affected blocks it may amount to 20 or 30 lbs. of made rubber per acre. Some planters, however, put it much higher. At any rate the loss is considerable.

There are various references to an abnormal shedding of leaves of Hevea brasiliensis in the literature about this plant. Sketch in his book on the Physiology, and Diseases of Hevea brasiliensis, on pages 173—177 mentioned it under the title climatic leaf-fall in Hevea. Again in the Administration Report for 1912-13 Sketch reports that he has determined that "leaf-fall which often follows the fruit disease and is characterised by the appearance of a dark brown ring on the leaf-stalk is caused by the canker fungus (Phytophthora Faberi)."

The Assistant Mycologist at Peradeniya, who was acting for the Mycologist when the latter was on leave, told me in correspondence that they have had leaf-fall for several years in Ceylon, that it becomes serious only during long continued spells of wet weather and that it had been bad on low country Estates. Again in the *Tropical Agriculturist* for 1916, Vol. 47, page 29, the acting Botanist and Mycologist reports on Hevea "taken all over, there appeared to be a general diminution of disease. The canker fungus, Phytophthora Faberi, again heads the list. Pod disease caused by this fungus was severe in some districts in July; this was accompanied by heavy leaf-fall owing to the spread of the fungus to the leaf-stalks." In the *Tropical Agriculturist* for 1904, Vol. 42, page 268, there is a reference to an abnormal leaf-fall in Surinam. Here the fact is stated that Hevea drops its leaves twice a year in Surinam. These are some references that show that an abnormal leaf-fall occurs in rubber-growing areas outside South India.

I shall now tell you of the occurrence of the fungus Phytophthora on the different parts of the tree. (Here Mr. Macrae explained hypha, mycelium, sporangium).

In the branches.—On splitting a branch that had suffered from abnormal leaf-fall in the previous monsoon and had died back to a certain extent there appears a clear line of demarcation between the dead and living pests. The line is about one-eighth of an inch broad and is dark brown. The dead wood is dry and brittle, brownish in colour and the pores are easily seen, while the living wood is moist and tough, yellowish in colour and the pores are not clearly visible. Sections, looked at under the microscope, show hyphæ in the dead tissues and in the living tissues adjacent. The hyphæ occur in the bark, wood, medullary rays and pith. When shavings cut with a sterile knife from the region where dead and living tissues meet, are kept moist overnight a copious growth of hyphæ is produced and sporangia are formed. When a portion of the dead wood is included in the shaving, other fungi, especially Fusarium, are present as well as the Phytophthora. The dead branch contains several fungi which are

purely saprophytic and have no relation to the cause of the die-back. The hyphæ in some cases extend only an inch or two along the living tissue while in other cases they are found much farther along the living part of the branch, especially when the fresh young shoots have developed. The mycelium extends into the tissues of the discoloured portions of those shoots when they are wilting, but it may not be found right up to the leaves. It looks as if the water-supply to those wilting shoots had been cut off, yet the mycelium does not appear to fill up the water-tubes to such an extent as to suggest that it clogs them and directly retards the passage of the sap. It is often, however, richly developed in the medullary rays and this may cause the wood to cease to perform its functions. The mycelium has also been found inside the branch below an infected terminal bud as well as at the place where the stalk of an infected fruit joins the branch.

On the leaves.—The part of the leaf to show infection first may be the leaflet, the stalk of the leaflet, or the stalk of the leaf. On the green leaf-blade dull grey spots appear which are circular in outline and enlarge, several running together to form a large irregular spot. Tiny drops of latex are often present towards the interior of the spot and near the edge a faint glistening appearance may be seen with a lens and this consists of clusters of sporangia of Phytophthora. The stalk of a leaflet or of a leaf may have a discoloured spot. Sometimes it is shrunk slightly below the general surface and has drops of latex. At this stage the leaves are ready to fall. A single leaflet whose stalk alone is infected may fall off leaving the other two leaflets intact. The leaflets may fall off one by one and then the stalk. Usually, however, the leaf falls as a whole. Sections of these affected parts show hyphæ of Phytophthora inside the tissues and in direct connection with the sporangia on the outside. It may happen that the leaf becomes yellow with no particular spots on any part or the leaf may be quite green when it falls. In such cases sections of the leaf-blade, the leaf-stalks and the twig that bears them may not disclose the presence of Phytophthora. Yet looking backwards along the branch one invariably finds a dead branch or branch scar and sections reveal the presence of the fungus at the junction of the dead and living tissues. Many examples carefully examined have established this observation. In such cases the mycelium is not in the leaves but in the branch. It would seem that the stimulus of the fungus within the branch causes it to shed its leaves.

During the time when the disease is spreading rapidly the young leaves in an opening bud are completely infected by mycelium of Phytophthora. They become discoloured and flaccid and the leaf-bud dies.

On the fruit.—This year a careful look out was kept for the commencement of the attack on the fruits on an Estate which had had fruit-rot and abnormal leaf-fall for three years. In March the trees were in blossom and fruits were forming. Faded male and female flowers became mouldy and a fungus with a colourless pencilliate fructification was commonly found on them, but no trace of Phytophthora was present. The fresh flowers, both male and female, were not infected by any fungus nor were the young fruits. Sections of the stalks of the flowers showed no hyphæ in the tissues. Thus there was no indication of the presence of Phytophthora on the flowers and young fruits even on trees that had had a severe fruit-rot and a copious abnormal leaf-fall during the previous year's monsoon. These

trees too had branches that had died back and that contained living mycelium of Phytophthora in their tissues. I have a note of having found the mycelium of Phytophthora in a previous year on the flowers but have mislaid the material so this point needs further observation before a general statement can be made regarding the presence or absence of the fungus on the flowers of Hevea. This year at any rate it was not on the flowers on the estate on which it was looked for and till the 12th of June the fruits were still free from the fungus. This was not because the fungus was lying inactive in the fruits, but because it was not yet on them as the following experiments show. Twenty-four fruits washed in boiled water and wiped dry with sterile cloths were kept, 6 in the air, in a closed vessel and 12 in moist chambers, but Phytophthora did not develop nor was the mycelium found in the fruit or in the stalk. Yet 12 fruits kept in a moist chamber and inoculated from a pure culture of Phytophthora that was kept alive from the previous year all became discoloured in from three to seven days.

The fruits were capable of being infected by the fungus, but it had not got to them then.

On the bark.—After the monsoon has set in well and the trunks of the trees are continuously wet, a rot sometimes appears on the tapped surface. Beginning as a small dark spot on the inner edge of the tapping cut it gradually extends laterally and vertically. It runs upwards in little dark streaks. The infected area seldom occupies more than a few square inches. The surface of the dark discoloured patch sinks below the general level of the surface of the bark and the streaks appear as sunken lines. Latex oozes out of the diseased surface and coagulates in small masses which become black. The rot extends right into the bark and destroys the cambium. When tapping is stopped at once, the rot spreads very slowly and does not affect much of the surface, but if tapping is continued, the rot spreads along the cut surface and affects a considerable area of the renewing bark. The rot stops with the passing of the monsoon. If the spot is small the bark is renewed with only a slight bulge but when the patch is a few inches in area the bark renewal is slow, uneven and lumpy.

Phytophthora has been found inside such spots. A similar bark-rot has been recorded from Java, Ceylon and Burma. Dastur in Bulletin No. 14 of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, describes a similar bark-rot which he calls "Black thread disease." He has determined by careful experimental work that a species of Phytophthora is the cause. In Java the cause is also thought to be Phytophthora. The Mycologist in Ceylon has been unable to find any connection between bark-rot and the canker fungus which is a species of Phytophthora. It is thought to be capable of explanation on purely physiological grounds.

In order to study the fungus one must have it growing alone free from all other living organisms. This we call a pure culture. The fungus was brought into pure culture first in 1915 from sporangia on the fruit and on the leaves. It has been brought into pure culture again this year from the leaf, fruit, branch and from the living part of a branch that had died back. The characters and mode of life of the fungus as recorded last year agree with those of the fungus again brought into culture this year. The fungus found in nature in all parts already mentioned, namely, leaves, fruit, branches and rotting bark

agrees with that in pure culture, so that we are dealing throughout with one fungus, a species of Phytophthora.

In a note in the *Planters' Chronicle* last year I mentioned that I thought this Phytophthora was Phytophthora Faberi, the fungus thought to be responsible for the disease in Ceylon, but a study of the material I have since got, together with the cultures I have made lead me to the conclusion that this Phytophthora is not Phytophthora Faberi, but one hitherto undescribed. I shall not trouble you with the technical discussion of this point as it will be published soon. In order to see whether the fungus did actually cause the disease, small portions of it were placed on the different parts of Hevea plants in moist conditions. In order to be brief I shall give you the history of one example only of each.

(*a*) *On leaves.*—A tiny portion of mycelium with sporangia that were discharging spores was placed on each of two leaflets of one leaf of a young plant which was kept under a bell-jar in order to keep the air round the plant moist. Two days after, the places inoculated began to show the discolouration. Two days later, the spots had enlarged and the leaflets were beginning to curl while the leaf-stalk was slightly discoloured. Next day both leaflets had fallen. Two days later two other lower leaflets showed signs of infection. Thus in nine days two leaflets had fallen and the fungus had spread to other leaves.

(*b*) *A leaf-stalk* was infected. In nine days a spot was produced and on touching the leaf it fell off. Sections showed that the fungus was inside.

(*c*) Healthy *fruits* were inoculated and showed the dull ashy-grey appearance on the surface in from three to seven days. In one case five days after inoculation the fungus had penetrated through the soft tissues along that part of the stalk embedded in the fruit and into the seeds.

(*d*) A young opening leaf-bud was inoculated and in three days the leaves showed signs of being infected. In 10 days the leaves were dead and the fungus had penetrated the stem immediately below the bud.

(*e*) A little of the bark above the tapping cut was carefully scraped away exposing the green bark below and was inoculated. When examined on the seventh day it showed a dark discoloured spot. Fourteen inoculations were made and 13 became infected. The same was done on other trees, but the bark was not interfered with in any way. Then nine became infected out of 15. The trees were all in tapping and had been tapped on the morning on which they were inoculated. These experiments have been repeated with the same result and in every case the mycelium of Phytophthora and its characteristic sporangia found inside the tissue had the same characters as that used for inoculation.

It has thus been demonstrated that this Phytophthora is the cause of all these disease appearances.

Recently the fungus was tried on Ceara (Manihot Glaziovii) and on the castor oil plant and both became infected. Discoloured spots were formed on the inoculated places on the leaves. These spread till the whole leaf was infected and the infection passed into the bud, killing

it. This shows that the fungus can grow on other plants besides Hevea and suggests that the fungus may have come to Hevea from a plant in the jungle. I have not seen it on any other plant in nature, but my opportunities of seeing it there are very few. One planter told me he suspected the jack, but specimens have not yet been found. I have found the fungus inside the seed of Hevea that was lying on the ground but this does not seem to be the way in which it is carried as nursery plants do not seem to be affected. It can, however, be made to attack seedlings as I have found at Coimbatore.

It is only during this last year that the life history of the fungus has been worked out in detail, so that the discussion of combative measures against the disease is more a suggestion of lines of future work than a statement of definite means of preventing the disease. In this connection there are two main facts to bear in mind: (1) that the mycelium passes the dry weather inside branches that have died back, and (2) that the fruits seem to be the propagating centres for multiplying the fungus. This suggests that the branches that have died back and the fruits should be dealt with. In the one case the aim is to stop the fungus from beginning its activity in the new season and in the other to stop the rapid propagation of the fungus after it has once begun. If all branches that this fungus has caused to die-back were removed say a foot beyond the junction of living and dead tissue, many of the centres of infection that begin the new attack of the fungus each year would be destroyed. Now all branches that die-back on Hevea do not do so because of this fungus. There are other factors that produce die-back, *e.g.*, shade causes the lower branches to die and other fungi, *e.g.*, Botryodiplodia Hevea also do so. There is no simple field method of distinguishing between these various causes. So that if die-back branches are to be removed then all will have to be removed, irrespective of the causing factor. To do this to a very large extent is possible, but it certainly will be costly. It is being tried on one Estate and it is hoped that it will be tried on a large scale in several Estates to decide its feasibility with regard to cost and its effectiveness in stopping or reducing the attack. It has also been shown that the fungus may invade a branch along the fruit-stalk and that the fruit-stalks of rotted fruits may remain on the tree through the dry weather till the beginning of the monsoon. This is a real difficulty in the way of preventive measures. I doubt whether it is possible to remove these fruit-stalks, even when the trees are bare in December-January and even if this were done there is the fact that the mycelium of the fungus invades the branch from which the fruit-stalks spring, at the point of insertion of the stalk. I have not actually found the fungus starting from this point in the early part of the year, but I have no doubt that it does so. Removing die-back branches would not touch this source of reinfection. Removal of the fruits before the break of the monsoon or at latest during the first fortnight of the monsoon, though this is cutting it rather fine for safety, would stop the rapid propagation of the fungus that begins about 15 days after the monsoon has set in. This would also get over the difficulty just mentioned with regard to infection by fruit-stalks.

If the fruits are not there to become infected, the fruit-stalks would not carry the mycelium of the fungus into the branches. To remove fruits from a rubber tree is not an easy matter, as they are scattered over the young twigs towards the ends of the branches. So far as my observations go, the fruits seem to be more plentiful on the lower

rather than on the higher branches. But, of course, I have not seen old rubber (*i.e.*, more than 10 years old) and do not know whether this holds good generally. At any rate it is substantially true for rubber in South India at the present time. Removal of the fruits is not an impossible task, though to do it thoroughly will be expensive.

There is another possibility, *viz.*, the destruction of the flowers in order to prevent the formation of fruit. This might be done in by mechanically removing the flowers or spraying them with a chemical that would kill them. Either of these would be rather a difficult operation to do well, still they are worth a trial.

It may be that anyone of these three suggested methods of combating the disease, *viz.*, removing branches that have died back, removing fruits, or destroying flowers alone will not be found to be effective. Perhaps a judicious mixture of all of them will prove more beneficial. Next year I hope to devote most attention to this aspect of the subject.

The problem is a difficult one for rubber planters, but I hope I have not been too pessimistic in stating it. I believe that a way will be found to at least materially reduce the damage caused by the fungus. I should like here to express my gratitude to the various planters who have given me facilities on their Estates for examining and experimenting on rubber trees, and for giving me information and specimens whenever I have asked for them—especially for the answers to the circular that was sent out last year.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Macrae for his interesting and carefully prepared lecture on the subject of abnormal leaf-fall of rubber as the most up-to-date and authoritative statement of the disease that exists. He had a good deal to do with rubber and he thought that he might safely say that abnormal leaf-fall was the most serious problem that rubber planters had to face in South India. He felt certain that every rubber planter had followed the lecture carefully and had assimilated it, notwithstanding all the awful words that had been used. He thought it was satisfactory to know that the lecture would be published in the *Chronicle* and that everybody would be able to read it over again and have it beside him for reference.

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD said that the importance of Mr. Macrae's work lay in the fact that he had found out and actually proved up to the hilt the cause of the disease. That must be the starting point in the preventing and curing of all diseases, namely, to know the cause. There were two distinct phases of the disease which he had seen recently in a tour on the West Coast. He noticed in one place that the leaves on the rubber trees were drooping and looking peculiarly lifeless, in a condition which he had never noticed before. This was one phase of the disease in which, as Mr. Macrae had pointed out, the fungus was at work in the branches. It was not developed strongly enough to make the leaves drop, but just to make them wither without dropping off. The other phase was what was called on the West Coast the monsoon or the real leaf-fall. It was up to every practical planter to see what he could do to prevent or cure the disease. They had to bear in mind that infection was mainly through the fruit, which gave three possible courses of action, but unfortunately all

three were extremely expensive and difficult, to carry out. First of all they could prevent the fruit being formed and to this end they might tackle the flowers and by doing something to them, such as spraying, prevent them from setting fruit. He was afraid that this was not a very practical solution. The experiment had been tried and it was found that the cost was enormous. There was first the difficulty of getting sufficient water and when it came to spraying trees eight and nine years old, it was going to be an increasingly difficult problem. They then came to the next possibility, namely, picking off the fruit again a very difficult thing to do. It was, however, actually being tried by sending boys up the trees to gather the fruit or in the case of bigger trees with a knife at the end of a bamboo to cut off the fruit. He had most hope of the suggestion to cut off the dead branches and in that way to get rid of the fungus which was carrying over the dry period. Undoubtedly something could be done, but it was purely a question of expense. He thought those were the lines on which they ought to work on Estates. They were the lines on which practical planters could help. They could try and find out the cost and whether it was going to be a practical proposition. That meant, of course, that they should have on every Estate what he had so often advocated, namely, a pest gang. It was purely a question on £ *s. d.* and it was for the planter to decide whether it was practicable. He was inclined to think that it could be done. It was simply a question of putting the cost against their losses. The other line of work in which they could help was to trace the source of infection. Mr. Macrae inclined to the belief that the disease was indigenous; that it existed in the jungle trees and came to the rubber from the jungle. It was a very remarkable fact that in every place in which rubber was planted, over a very wide area, with different conditions of soil and climate, broadly speaking in every place practically at the same time had the disease appeared. It certainly seemed that the disease existed in the jungle and had from there come on to the rubber. One of the things they had to do was to try and find out what jungle trees suffered from this disease and to see if it could be remedied. It might be that they would have some luck and would find that it was a disease on some particular kind of tree. It might then be possible, by co-operation with the Forest Department, to get these removed. Another important point that Mr. Macrae's labours had brought to light was that the disease did not attack nurseries and young plants. Here they had ideal conditions for the fungus to work: they had dense vegetation and a moist atmosphere, yet nobody had ever suggested that he had seen leaf-fall in a nursery. He would go further and say that nobody had seen it on one-year old or two-year old trees. The reason for that was what Mr. Macrae had pointed out, namely, that the trees could not be infected except through the fruit.

In conclusion he would like to point out that this was an example, as he had so often pointed out for the necessity of having a Mycologist. Mr. Macrae had a hundred other things to do and it was very kind of him to take up this work and it was also extremely good of the Madras Agricultural Department to allow him to take up this work. But it was only one disease; he could name 10 or 12 diseases of equal importance to their crops that required the same concentrated attention and skill. If they had their own Mycologist he could tackle these problems. They would note how quickly Mr. Macrae had solved this one as far as it lay with the Mycologist to do so, but it rested with the planters to follow up the work and provide the preventive measures.

Dr. COLEMAN said that he was extremely interested in Mr. Macrae's paper from a mycological standpoint. There were different fungi that went under the name of Phytophthora which, he might explain, was only the Greek word for "plant devourer." It was one of the Phytophthora that was the cause of the potato famine in Ireland, another that was the cause of the areca nut disease in Mysore, a third that was the cause of a serious disease in cocoa, and during the last few years it had been discovered that it was a species of the same fungus that attacked the citron. They had not gone far enough to know whether all these fungi were the same, but they did know that they could produce the same disease in another plant. It was an extremely important thing for them to know whether all these fungi were one and the same thing, because they would then know how it got about. The other interesting point that they know was that it attacked the fruit first. This was the case with rubber, with the citron and with the areca nut. This was an important thing to know because it furnished the method of combating the disease. In the case of areca nut this had been done so efficiently by spraying that the disease had disappeared altogether. The result was that he could not carry on further experiments unless he infected the trees again.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) asked if the infection was caused by the mycelium or by the sporangia.

Mr. MACRAE replied that both could infect.

Mr. WADDINGTON further said that it had been suggested that the disease had been introduced from a jungle host. He wished to know how this took place, whether it travelled through the soil or had been blown from the jungle.

Mr. MACRAE replied that it had probably been blown in from the jungle in rain drops.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked if the infection was carried by seed.

Mr. MACRAE said that he had recently examined a seed and actually found mycelium in the seed, which seemed to show that it could be carried by seed. Against that however was the fact that the disease never attacked nurseries.

Mr. RICHARDSON.—That is the point I can't quite follow. It does not appear in nurseries and it does not appear till the tree begins to seed. Seeing that we have it so badly throughout the rubber districts, I cannot agree with what Mr. Anstead said that it comes in from the jungle.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that that was a point that was difficult to settle. They got their seed from different places yet all the results of this seed were infected. He thought that it would be probable under such conditions that some place would have escaped. Mr. Macrae said that it was only a suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Macrae had some illustrations exhibiting the various stages of the disease, which when the meeting closed, he would be glad to show to anybody interested and to explain.

Mr. R. D. ANSTEAD read the following notes on the analyses he had made of certain kinds of ashes :—

A number of samples of different kinds of ashes have been examined in the Laboratory during the year and they appear to be used fairly frequently on Estates, now that there is a shortage of potash.

The benefit derived from ashes is due to the combined effects of the very finely divided calcium carbonate and potassium carbonate which they contain.

The following table shows the composition of the samples examined:

Ashes derived from	Potash.	Phosphoric Acid.	Lime.
Tobacco Waste	26·96		
Galinsoga parviflora ...	24·27	4·28	5·94
Cow Dung	16·49	1·40	3·50
Wood Ashes	4·37	3·66	36·06
	3·83	1·73	38·33
	3·73	3·42	47·85
	3·05	2·51	7·47
Jungle Wood	2·95		
Etzel Grass	4·10		6·16
Paddy Husk	0·89		
Bracken Fern	1·97		
			

It will be seen that the composition of these ashes varies a great deal, especially the composition of wood ashes depending on the material from which it is made. This latter class of ash contains a very large amount of lime.

As wood matures the proportion of potash and phosphoric acid decrease while that of lime increases so that the ash of old wood is not so valuable as that from young branches and leaves in which phosphoric acid and especially potash largely occur, and whenever possible such material should be chosen in preference to old wood for the preparation of ashes for agricultural purposes.

The ash from Tobacco Waste is a most valuable source of potash and one which should be developed.

Galinsoga parviflora is a very common weed on Tea and Coffee Estates and one which should be encouraged and always dug in when found so as to conserve its valuable constitutents. My attention was first called to the high potash content of the ash of this plant by my friend and colleague, Dr. Harrison, the Government Agricultural Chemist. The sun-dried plant contains about 18-20 per cent. of ash which ash contains about a quarter of its weight in potash. Another valuable form of ash is that derived from Cow Dung or Bratties.

The ashes of Bracken Fern are disappointing. The ash of Bracken Fern was recommended as a source of potash in England and said there to contain 20 per cent. or more of potash but two samples exa-

mined here contained a very large proportion of insoluble matter and very little potash. The reason for this is not clear, it possibly has something to do with the soil on which the Fern is growing.

It has often been stated that soda may be substituted for potash. In a measure this bald assertion needs some qualification. When in any soil certain mineral elements of plant food are lacking, they may, in some degree, but not in their entirety, be replaced by other nearly allied elements, and to some extent soda replaces potash, but not altogether, and not sufficiently to render the latter unnecessary. The idea could be easily carried too far. Our soils are not as a rule lacking altogether in potash and comparatively small applications are found in practice to suffice. Sources of potash deserving consideration at a time like this are ash of all kinds.

In any system of manuring at the present time it would seem that the safest and most economical plan to adopt is to lime the soil and then apply organic material which in decomposition supplies nitrogen, and the phosphates and any ash available.

The effect of the lime followed by phosphates will be to materially hasten the decomposition of silicates and insoluble forms of potash in the soil with the production of potash available to the plant. At the same time the phosphates are most essential when the berry is the chief object of attainment in the crop.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) asked Mr. Anstead if he could say, off-hand, what amount of potash was contained in lantana.

Mr. ANSTEAD replied that Dr. Lehmann had analysed it and found that it was very high, about 20 per cent. The trouble about lantana was that the proportion of ash was very low, only about 2 per cent.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) asked if the composition of blue gum ash was known.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—No, but I wish you would send me some.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) asked if there was more manurial benefit in the way of potash by burning the young prunings than by burying them.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that they were better buried, because then they got the potash as well as the nitrogen. It was an advantage to burn all heavy and bury all light stuff, except, of course, if one had stump-rot, then of course they should burn. In all other circumstances they should bury young prunings and burn heavy prunings.

Mr. HUGHES asked if there was any special benefit in the method of treatment called "dig, ring and lime." He had been recently told that there was no object gained in ringing. It was quite sufficient to dig a hole 2 feet square, remove the affected bush and apply lime.

Mr. ANSTEAD said that there were several different kinds of fungi at work on tea and coffee in different districts. If fungi spread through the soil, in that case ringing was necessary; but where they did not it was not necessary to ring. In all cases lime was necessary. These diseases of tea and coffee wanted working out and one of the first jobs of a Mycologist would be to tackle them. Mr. Macrae had

done a lot of work on root diseases and he had pointed out that it was a big problem to work out the life history of these pests. They must have a man who would confine himself entirely to the work. So to finish up his answer to Mr. Hughes' question, he would say that in their present state of knowledge it was safe always to ring and to apply lime. When they knew more they would be able to modify the treatment.

Mr. HUGHES said that one point that he had noticed was that young tea when affected by stump-rot went out but old tea remained healthy for quite a number of years and showed no signs of the disease for possibly 10, 12 or 15 years, but when it became affected with stump-rot it was very difficult to stop it. Was there any explanation for that? They had not been cutting down any shade trees.

Mr. ANSTEAD.—Is this on your grass lands?

Mr. HUGHES—No, it is our old tea. There is no apparent reason for it. There are no stumps and no cutting out of shade, yet the old tea becomes affected.

Dr. COLEMAN said that he had found that root-rot of arecanut palms in that part of Mysore never occurred in any tree under about 10 years. Certain work done in Germany indicated the way in which root fungi might be attacked. It had something to do with the amount of moisture. That meant that the less moisture there was the earlier and more rapidly did the fungus develop. It might be that this had something to do with the attacks on the older trees. It was a problem that he was going to investigate. He quite agreed with Mr. Anstead that the root diseases of tea and coffee required a good deal of special investigation, as they were related to so many diseases that attacked jungle trees. The pest difficulty with coffee fungi was that they would not develop spores. When they got the spores they could tell what fungus they were dealing with.

This closed the business before the meeting, which then adjourned.

Third day, Wednesday Afternoon, Aug. 16th, 1916.

[D. COMMITTEE].

At 2-30 P.M. there was a Meeting of D Committee at the Mayo Hall to consider the subject of Roads and Communications. The Committee was constituted as follows:—

Chairman.—Mr. H. WADDINGTON.

Members.—The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER, Mr. J. H. ROBINSON, Mr. L. E. KIRWAN, Mr. T. C. FORBES, Mr. P. G. TIPPING, Mr. E. A. HUGHES, Mr. S. P. EATON, Mr. A. S. DANDISON, Mr. W. H. REED, Mr. E. TRAVERS-DRAPES, Mr. C. LAKE, Mr. J. B. COOK and Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.

Feeder Roads on the Shevaroys.

Mr. E. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroys), in opening the discussion on this subject, said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—This is an old subject, but there are one or two points which may make it now find favour with Government. To refresh your memory I shall go over some of the old ground. We have a cart road from Salem which passes through Yercaud and ends at Glazebrook Estate. Thence through Glazebrook to four Estates, there is only a footpath, but at the top of one of them which is situated about the middle of this group of four, there is a very well-kept and well-traced bridle-path leading down to the plains. This bridle-path, however, which is the Manjavadi Ghat Road, at its lowest extremity comes to an end 1½ miles from the Salem Trunk Road on the plains, though without top or bottom connections. Government are allowing Rs. 135 per mile for the maintenance of this blind alley which appears to be a waste of public money. At the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, in 1915, the Hon'ble Mr. Barber pointed out that when this matter came up in 1912 the answer given was that the Government had repeatedly expressed their unwillingness to spend more money on this road, but, in view of the special circumstance involved, the Government asked to be informed whether the District Board and the planters would combine to find half the cost in which case they would find the other half. There seems to be a mistaken impression here, because the District Board has no interest whatever in our roads, which are maintained from Imperial funds. The Department most interested is the Forest Department, and they would benefit just as much as the planters by being able to tap those portions of the Hills which contain some of our best and richest forests. These forests which are full of gallnuts, sandalwood, bamboos, teak and other timber have no connections with the plains beyond rough and steep footpaths. I do not think planters have ever been asked before to contribute towards the cost of a road on these hills. All the other roads on the Shevaroys were opened at Government cost except in one instance and it is a distinct hardship that this group of Estates which are situated at the back of beyond should be deprived of the benefits conferred on other planters when the cost of placing them in communication with the plains is so small. The exception referred to was where a single

planter made a road for his own convenience, but that should not form a precedent. What would be the objection to recovering the cost of this road by means of a toll gate. The amount of labour that is required for the thousands of head loads carried up and down the Manjavady Ghat every year can be imagined when eight Mangalore tiles are carried by a cooly at a cost of As. 6. This seriously affects the labour which is available, not only for planters, but also for the Forest contractors. We are not certain of the amount which we can raise amongst ourselves, but taking the cost as estimated by Government at Rs. 5,500, we have every hope of being able to raise quarter of that amount and we think that the Forest Department who will be the chief gainers by this road, can surely pay Rs. 1,125 and consider it a valuable investment, while if Government are prepared to spend another Rs. 2,250 they stand to lose nothing if a toll-gate is temporarily established. Is it a small matter that hundreds of rupees worth of valuable rubber and coffee will be sacrificed in making the connections between the Salem-Glazebrook Road and the Manjavady Ghat and no compensation is asked for, while in other places when new roads have been put in every coffee tree cut out has been paid for? If Government cannot see their way to granting the whole of the prayer of those planters who are so unfortunate as to be situated in this inaccessible part of the Hills perhaps they might see their way to granting part of it by connecting the Salem-Glazebrook Road with the top of the Manjavady Ghat and allow the question of connecting the blind end of the Manjavady Ghat with the Trunk Road on the plains to lie over for the present. In this case there would be only three miles of road to construct along a fairly easy gradient, half of which will run along a fair sized Estate road already in existence.

I therefore propose the following Resolution :—"That in view of the fact that the connecting of the Glazebrook-Yercaud Road with the top of the Manjavady Ghat and the bottom of the Manjavady Ghat with the Salem-Harur Road is of such importance not only to planters but to the Forest Department as well, the U. P. A. S. I. desire to point out to Government the decided benefits to be derived by all concerned by completing both these connections or if that be not possible at present by connecting the Yercaud-Glazebrook Road with the top of the Manjavady Ghat."

THE CHAIRMAN.—I understand that it is now agreed that Government was willing that the work should go forward if the District Board and the planters were willing to contribute.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES.—The District Board has no interest whatever in the matter; it does not control our roads and does not repair them. The District Board does not control anything but the Union.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—If the District Board has no interest in the roads, perhaps the Forest Department has. Have the Shevaroys approached the Forest Department?

Mr. TRAVERS DRAPES said that they had and read a letter from the District Forest Office which set out the programme of roads and buildings budgetted for by that Department for the next five years, that was from 1915 to 1920. Moreover the Department's allotments for this purpose had been cut down on account of the War, hence the Department was not able to contribute anything. Besides the District Forest Officer was not a controlling officer in the matter of finance.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER thought it would be a great mistake to take this Resolution up to Government in the present form. They all knew that, owing to the War, a great deal of constructional work had to be cut down as funds were not forthcoming even for such work that was necessary. He thought that the view that ought to be taken was that Government would consider the matter of the road was one of importance to the District in general. If the cost of the road could be paid for by the tolls, it was really worth the planters' while to build the road themselves.

He thought the case as stated by Mr. Travers-Drapes now was weaker than that originally put forward. The original case was that this road which was well kept up did not connect with the two main roads, the trunk road on the plains and the feeder road at the top of the Ghat. If the Shevaroy's Association came forward definitely and said that they were willing to pay Rs. 1,125, the Government might be willing to find the money over and above that amount required. It would be better for them to say: "Here is the money, will you complete the top end of the Ghat road?" He said it would be far better if the Shevaroy's Association worked directly in this matter and not through the U. P. A. S. I. They might then get something done. He did not want to say anything that would prove obstructive, but he would like to point out in this connection that there were twelve miles of road on the Nilgiris which were kept up by the planters themselves.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES agreed with the Hon'ble Mr. Barber on certain points, but he did not see any difference in what he had said now and what had been said on this subject before. It was the same Ghat road with no opening at top or bottom. The planters on the Shevaroys were chiefly small holders, and it was not a small thing for them to find a large sum of money straight away. If a toll-gate was established, the amount would be spent in dribs and drabs and it would not be felt. That was his only reason for suggesting a toll-gate; but as the Hon'ble Mr. Barber thought they could do better by getting a definite promise from those concerned as to the amount they were willing to subscribe and promised that he would do his best with the Forest Department. He thought that that was all that the Shevaroys required and there was no need to go on with the matter. The Resolution was accordingly withdrawn.

The Mangalore-Arsikere Railway.

Mr. C. LAKE (South Mysore) said that he had been asked by his Association to bring the subject of the Mangalore-Arsikere Railway before the Meeting again. The subject had been brought up now for many years and he did not think that he could probably add to what had been said in favour of it on preceding occasions. Recently Mr. Richards, the Special Engineer deputed by the Railway Board to report on Railways and harbours on the West Coast had made a tour of inspection along the route of this railway and he (Mr. Lake) had no doubt that a report would be made on the project as to the advisability or otherwise of constructing it. His Association therefore thought that this was an opportune moment to again press the claims for constructing this Railway. He, therefore, hoped to bring forward the following Resolution in open Meeting:—"That in view of the recent inspection by Mr. Richards of the proposed route of this railway, the Government of India be again approached, through the Governments of Madras and Mysore, as to the desirability of carrying out this project."

In order to open a discussion on the subject of railways in Planting Districts, the Hon'ble Mr. Barber at this stage moved the following Resolution which was duly adopted: " That this Meeting do consider the whole matter of railways in Planting Districts and outlets to the West Coast."

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Richards if he would give the Meeting his views on this subject.

Mr. RICHARDS accordingly read the following Note on the subject:—

At the Meeting on Monday, the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber suggested that I may be able to make a cheering utterance about the prospects of the Shoranur-Manantoddy Railway Project. All that I can say about the scheme at present is that it is very strongly favoured by the Government of Madras on three grounds:—

(i) as a north-and-south metre-gauge connection,

(ii) as a feeder to the Port of Cochin, and

(iii) for the development of rubber and tea plantations in the Wynaad and the Nilgiris.

I was up in Ootacamund for a few days about two months ago, when Sir Harold Stuart and Mr. Murray kindly allowed me to take copies of a lot of papers about the Shoranur-Manantoddy project and of Mr. Murray's map of the line. Next month, or the month after, I hope to go to Manantoddy to learn a little more about the project on the spot. As you are probably aware, I know very little about this part of India, so my present position is that of a " child taking notes."

The Railway Board of India sent me down here last March, with the following orders:—

To carry out a reconnaissance with the object of framing a scheme of railway extension for;

(i) the provision of railway communication between a port on the West Coast of India and the hinterland, including Coorg and the adjacent parts of Mysore and British territory, and

(ii) the opening out of the Province of Coorg.

I was subsequently directed to undertake a detailed enquiry into the traffic prospects of the Nanjangud-Erode Railway project: this may possibly be classed as a Mysore and West Coast Railway Project: for it would shorten the railway journey from Mysore to Cochin and other ports on the West Coast. You may perhaps be interested to hear that my orders resulted from discussions which Sir Robert Gillan, now President of the Railway Board, had with planters and officials when he was here about two years ago.

It may be noticed that the province of Coorg figures largely in my instructions. Sir Robert Gillan was favourably impressed with the prospects of a railway from Mysore City to Siddapur: this project has been vigorously pushed by Sir Hugh Daly and the Mysore Durbar and by the District Board and planters of Coorg, with the result that it is now in a forward condition and there seems to be a fair chance of cutting the first sod of a railway to Siddapur or Fraserpet next year. The District Board of Coorg have resolved to tax themselves in order

to finance a Mysore-Coorg Railway: by this means they will get a railway into Coorg very much earlier than they could get one built from the revenues of the Government of India.

I venture to suggest that it may be good policy for the Wynaad to follow the example of Coorg and put their money in the first instance on a Manantoddy Railway instead of a railway from Manantoddy to Shoranur or to any point on the West Coast. The complete Wynaad-Shoranur scheme comprises an extension from Manantoddy to Siddapur in Coorg and another extension to Nanjangud either *via* Gudalur or from Manantoddy along the Kabbani River. My suggestion is that the Manantoddy-Nanjangud section should be the first part of the scheme to be undertaken. The Mysore Durbar have already started a survey for a railway or tramway to connect the Kakankote forests with the Mysore State Railways. Assuming that the Durbar will run their line along the north bank of the Kabbani River to their frontier, it will be necessary for the Wynaad to build only 10 or 11 miles of railway to get a station within 1½ miles of the centre of Manantoddy Town. After these 10 or 11 miles have been built (or simultaneously if the money can be found so soon) we can get on with the Manantoddy-Siddapur line and with that portion of the Manantoddy-Shoranur Railway which lies on the plateau above the Western Ghats.

It is probable that we shall eventually get a railway running in a northerly direction near the watershed of India from Meppadi through Manantoddy, Sidapur (or Pollibetta), Fraserpet, and Arkalgud to Saklaspur and perhaps to Mudigere or even further north. Such a line would link up the planting Districts of Mysore and Coorg and the Wynaad: then the Manantoddy-Nanjangud and Siddapur-Mysore Railways, with a third railway, in the neighbourhood of Saklaspur aud Hassan, would link up all these Districts with the Mysore State Railways and with the railways of British India; thus all the Districts would be connected with any line or lines that may eventually be built to connect Mysore with the West Coast.

Regarding the Hassan-Mangalore Railway, I look on this particular line as merely one of many Mysore and West Coast Railways on which I am expected to report. I know of a dozen such lines which are feasible and I expect to hear of more; they range from the Shimoga-Bhatkal line in the north to the Manantoddy-Shoranur line in the South. Though all these lines are feasible there is not one that is cheap. Anyone of them entails a sharp descent of something like 2,000 or 3,000 feet down the Western Ghats; this descent requires something like 12 to 18 miles of very expensive work with a ruling gradient of 1 in 25 or nearly double those lengths with a ruling gradient of 1 in 40: the Ghat sections will cost so much that money is not likely to be forthcoming for more than one—or at the most two—Mysore and West Coast Railways for very many years. I am now trying to find out which one—or which two—of all the feasible Mysore and West Coast Railways ought to be built when money is available.

In conclusion he said that he had been over the ground and in his opinion the Mangalore-Arsikere Railway was one of a dozen such projects all of which were good if the money could be found, but he was afraid that there was not much chance just now of the money being found for any one particular railway. He would like to hear, however, which of the twelve railways the U. P. A. S. I. would support.

Mr. LAKE pointed out that as far as Mysore was concerned, a line through the Wynaad to Cochin was of little use as far as the produce of the Mysore planting districts was concerned, because it was much cheaper for them to send it by cart to the Coast than by train all the way round by Shoranur to Cochin.

Mr. RICHARDS said that he was under the impression that the Wynaad-Shoranur Scheme was part of that for providing Cochin with a harbour. If they expected to get a harbour they must provide freight for it, and they could not do that unless they had a railway to carry the freight to the harbour. This would be done by the Wynaad-Shoranur line which, though it was going to be an expensive project, would do more for Cochin harbour than any other project.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON (Anamalais) said that this question of an outlet depended a good deal on the selection of the site for a harbour on the West Coast. The Mangalore-Arsikere line had Mangalore for its port, which in the monsoon could not be used as a harbour. Bhatkal was in a similar position and the remark applied to all ports practically on the West Coast. North of Mangalore, however, there was a small port at which steamers could call at all seasons—Malpe, he thought it was called. Mangalore and Bhatkal were both on a lee shore, and unless they built a harbour like that of Madras, they could not be used as all the-year-round ports of call.

Mr. LAKE pointed out that Mangalore was only closed to shipping for five months in the year, during which period there was very little traffic. Further he did not see how one line parallel to the Ghats was going to draw off all the traffic as long as they had cheap cart hire to the coast. There must be two schemes, one for Mangalore and another for Cochin.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—What we want to know is which of the 12 schemes you would prefer. It seems to be throwing on apple of discord among us to propound 12 schemes, when before we only had two.

Mr. LAKE.—As far as Mysore is concerned, we have always pinned our faith to the Mangalore-Arsikere line.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON.—You want a port at the end of your line.

Mr. LAKE.—We have all the port that we require in Mangalore.

THE MADURA-BODINAYAKANUR RAILWAY.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES (Kanan Devan) said that he had been asked by his Association to put the question of this railway, in which they were interested, before the Meeting with a view to approaching Government for its construction. It was not quite such a venerable project as some that had been mentioned by Mr. Richards, but every year their requirements increased and their need for improved communications became more urgent. There had been, as all knew, tremendous developments in the High Range, where they were a very long way from the nearest station on the South Indian Railway which ran through Kodaikanal Road to Madura. At present most of their produce was transported by carts to Kodaikanal Road. In past years there were three or four rivers which barred the road and in times of flood stopped all traffic for weeks. After a time the local Government had met their needs by constructing bridges: but still though

communication was more feasible than it used to be, it was not at all adequate to their requirements, which, as he said before were increasing from year to year. He did not know if this railway had been lost sight of by Mr. Richards.

Mr. RICHARDS.—I am only dealing with a certain section of the country which does not include the tract you are speaking of.

Mr. HUGHES continuing said that one advantage with regard to the railway he was advocating was that it could be constructed cheaply. A survey had been carried out, and the proposed alignment ran from Bodinayakanur, a distance of about 11 miles, and from there it went across to Kuruvanuth at the foot of the Peermade Ghat. It would get a large amount of their produce, and, in addition, it would open up a large tract of country. It would also open up the Cumbum Valley, which was watered from the Periyar Irrigation Project and had immense possibilities in the way of growing cotton. Apart from the fact that it would carry a large amount of planters produce, it would certainly pay 10 per cent. on the money invested in it. The difficulty at present would be to raise the capital of Rs. 28 or Rs. 30 lakhs required for construction as the money market was now closed. Construction difficulties were few; and there was only one bridge of any importance. Another point that deserved to be considered was that a certain amount of the money had been already raised. Rs. 5 lakhs of it he thought was in the shape of a cess by the District Board. He thought if it was possible they might ask the U. P. A. S. I. to back their interests with the Government and send up a Resolution asking the Government of Madras to put the construction work of this railway in hand as quickly as possible. It was cheap and there were very few difficulties in the way. It was only a matter of getting the capital. He would, therefore, move the following Resolution: "That in view of the increasing interests and development of tea in the High Range and the urgent need of improved facilities for transport and communication this Association would ask the Government of India if they can see their way to begin the Railway from Madura to Bodinayakanur with as little delay as possible."

Mr. C. LAKE (S. Mysore) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON (Anamalais) said that he had been asked to bring forward a Resolution regarding the state of the roads in the Anamalais. No notice had been given of this Resolution so he did not know if he was in order in bringing it forward. It was just a general Resolution and read as follows: "That this Association draws the attention of the Government to the state of the roads in the Anamalai District, and that in regard to road contracts that steps be taken to remove an undoubted misunderstanding which exists between the Public Works Department and the planters.

Mr. S. P. EATON (Mundakayam) seconded the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that he could allow the matter to be brought up in open Meeting. It could not, however, be discussed there without the unanimous consent of the whole meeting.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING (Coorg) said that there was another small matter that he wanted the Association to take up and that was the frequent misconnection of the Madras-Mysore mails, which was a great inconvenience to them in Coorg where they often get their letters and

papers a day or more late. With the permission of the Chairman now, and of the members in open Meeting, he would like to propose the following Resolution: "That this Association wishes to draw the attention of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to the frequent misconnection of mail trains beween Madras and Mysore, thereby causing a delay of 24 hours in the delivery of the mails in Coorg; and it would also draw attention to the unnecessary delay in the delivery of internal mails in the Somwarpet and Suntikoppa sections, owing to the mails of these places going *via* Frazerpet instead of *via* Mercara, to which attention was drawn so long ago as April.

Mr. J. H. ROBINSON seconded the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN said that this completed the business before the Committee. He thanked Mr. Richards for attending and giving them the benefit of his assistance in the complicated matter of railways.

Fourth day, Thursday, August 17th, 1916.

OPEN MEETING.

The Delegates met at 10 A.M. when the business done in Committee on the previous days was discussed in open meeting and confirmed.

The Secretary's Report and Accounts.

The CHAIRMAN said that he presumed that the meeting would adopt the Secretary's Annual Report and the accounts, which had been passed in Committee.

The Report and Accounts were formally adopted.

The Scientific Department.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had asked Mr. Stuart if he would be kind enough to attend and give them the latest information available on the subject of their Scientific Department.

Mr. G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Madras, said that he would try and give the meeting a brief account of how matters stood at present. As they were all aware, a small Committee threshed out the details of the new scheme, which was sent up to Government by his predecessor, Mr. Chadwick, in July last year. In so doing, Mr. Chadwick indicated the main lines of work that would be carried on by the new Department at the Experimental Stations. Briefly the situation was as follows:—Cultural and manurial problems would be dealt with, also methods for improving them and for improving raw products, and for their special Mycological work a Mycologist would be added to the Department. The reasons why a series of small stations were proposed in preference to one big one were also thoroughly discussed, and he did not propose to go over all those details again. In the proposals sent up last year it had been decided to start four experimental stations, though the ultimate number would be six. The initial estimated cost was Rs. 21,450 and the recurring annual expenditure at first would be Rs. 39,450, which included the pay of the senior officers and the new Mycologist. It was probable that this, however, would increase as the work expanded. The scheme had been definitely accepted by the Government of Madras, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State, and the whole subject was now pending with the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Some time before he left Mr. Chadwick had been in correspondence with the Association, both as regards the definite location of the new Experimental Stations and what could be done during the coming year in the way of preparation, and on the day before he left Mr. Chadwick found time to send proposals to Government so that a start might be made this year in laying out the stations, as far as possible, and putting up the buildings that would be required. The estimate for this was about Rs. 10,000, half of which he suggested would be provided by Government and the other half by the United Planters' Association. He was still waiting for the orders of the Government on this proposal and hoped to receive them shortly. As far as the main scheme went, that was the only definite information that he could give them. He thought that there was little doubt, as Mr. Browne had already informed them that, this main scheme would

go through more or less in the form in which it was sent up. The only other thing that it was possible to do now was to take up the question of Mr. Anstead's clerical staff, about which he would send up definite proposals. In these days the Government had to look very carefully at their expenditure, but he had no doubt at all that they would be able to find the small sum needed to start work this year. In that connection he wished to remove a possible slight misapprehension. On Monday the Chairman had announced that Rs. 10,000 had been placed at the disposal of the Government. That did not mean that the Government had taken this money and was doing nothing with it. The money was in the possession of the Association still and it was getting interest on it.

On Tuesday they had discussed in Committee the question of the Assistant Analytical Chemist. The present man had been engaged on a salary of Rs. 100 on a year's agreement, and he understood that the man was working satisfactorily. Although there had been a loss on the year's working, yet he thought there was a reasonable prospect, if the man was given sufficient work that the cost would be recovered from the fees charged. They had had considerable trouble last year in getting a suitable man, and it was now suggested that the best way of avoiding this was to make the post a definite Government billet, so that the Director of Agriculture would be responsible for filling the post and keeping it filled. An order on this subject had been received making the new appointment in January last, when the scale of pay was fixed at Rs. 75 rising to Rs. 100 in eight years. It would have been possible to give the present man a start higher up the scale, but that would mean that there would be objections on the part of men already in the Department, over whose heads this man would go, and he (Mr. Stuart) would most certainly support those objections. The best thing to do would be to leave matters as it was at present, as they were satisfied with their man. If they wished to get rid of him, it was up to the Director to fill the post. He had no doubt that he would be able to do so.

He would next like to invite their attention to the book that he had circulated at the Committee yesterday. Mr. Wood's "Notes on Agricultural Facts and Figures," price Re. 1, printed at the Government Press, Madras. They would all find it a useful compendium of agricultural facts and although it dealt chiefly with ryots' crops, it also contained a large amount of general information. In conclusion he thanked the Chairman for inviting him to be present at the meeting. When he acted on a former occasion as Director of the Madras Agricultural Department, the relations between the Department and the Association were extremely vague. In fact, so far as he could recollect, the only matter that came periodically before the Department was Mr. Anstead's travelling allowance bill. He was very pleased to find that things had moved considerably since then, and he was glad of an opportunity of getting into touch with the Association and its work again and trusted that his Department would be able to do them well in the future. (Cheers).

The CHAIRMAN said that he voiced the opinion of all present when he said that they might congratulate themselves that when they had lost Mr. Chadwick for a time that his place had been taken by Mr. Stuart. In the short time that he had been in office he had mastered the subjects which had taken them so long and had thrown himself heartily into the work and was aiding them in every way that they could. (Cheers).

The Analytical Chemist.

The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. J. A. Richardson and seconded by Mr. T. C. Forbes:—"That the Analytical Chemist be employed for another year, as recommended by the Committee."

Mr. RICHARDSON in proposing the Resolution said that he was quite sure that there was no divergence of opinion about continuing the employment of the Analytical Chemist for another year. It was true that during the past year there had been a loss in this particular branch of the work, but he was quite sure that all would agree that the advantage to be gained was far in excess of the financial loss, the reason for which Mr. Anstead had explained. The real position, however, was not so bad as it looked on paper. This year they were carrying forward a large stock of chemicals, which was sufficient for a year's work of the Department. If the Department got the support that it should, there was not the slightest doubt that it would be a success financially. He wanted to ask the Delegates to go back to their Associations and impress on all the members the advantage that was to be gained by supporting the Analytical Department.

The Resolution was carried.

The Rubber Growers' Association.

The CHAIRMAN moved the following Resolution: "That in the opinion of this Association it is the duty of every Rubber Estate in Southern India to join the Rubber Growers' Association, enabling that Association to enlarge its scope of utility and to undertake research work in Southern India." After what had been already said, the Chairman continued, in his opening address, he did not think it necessary to say anything further as to the necessity for every Rubber Estate in Southern India joining. He did not think that there were the usual objections to joining this Association that were sometimes advanced in District Associations, namely, that a man did not like the President or the Secretary; he did not know what the Association did, or he did not get exactly what he wanted himself. In the Rubber Growers' Association, he did not think that anybody could say that it was not necessary for the welfare of the rubber-grower. Further, if they supported it well, there was a great chance of the Association undertaking research work in Southen India.

The Resolution was unanimously carried.

Roads and Communications.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. BARBER proposed and Mr. P. G. Tipping (Coorg) seconded the following Resolution. "That this meeting do consider the whole matter of Railways in planting districts and outlets on the West Coast." In doing so the Hon'ble Mr. Barber said:—Mr. Chairman, I ask leave to introduce a general Resolution in regard to railways and outlets in order that the matter may be discussed and Mr. Richards may get some idea of the views of the Planting Community on the question of railways.

As a rule we are ready to hunt any hare that may be started and any scheme will find an advocate amongst us, but I believe that in the matter of railways our views are fixed and our opinion, to say the least of it, tenacious.

We have two schemes, they are not rival schemes, to which we adhere and we are prepared to forego neither. The Mangalore-Arsikere

Railway has been before us for years and has frequently been discussed for years, while the Manantoddy-Shoranur Railway though it has not come in for the same discussion is nearly as old though its name is new, for formerly it was known as the Wynaad Railway. There are cardinal points which are common to both schemes. They both involve a ghaut railway, giving outlet from the planting districts to the West Coast and both have a port as an objective, a port on which produce can be concentrated and a port from which it can be distributed to the markets of the world.

It is these essential points that we adhere to and that form part of any scheme of which we can approve. We have no wish to be linked up to any of the eastern systems and in fact we should look with suspicion on any connection with the East before ours was assured. It may be interesting to recall here, that the original Wynaad Railway project was turned down by the then Public Works Secretary to the Government of Madras, with a suggestion that if Wynaad wanted a railway it should be connected with Bangalore through Nanjangud and Mysore, so that all the produce would be attracted to Madras.

The schemes we support differ in this respect: Mangalore is not an open port all the year round, nor is this necessary for our coffee produce; but with tea and rubber it is a different matter. For those products we require a harbour from which we can ship, day in day out, throughout the year, and as far as we know Cochin is the only port that can give us these facilities, and here also we hope to see in time a produce market. Again the Mangalore Scheme in itself is not a complete one. The railway will cut the length of the coffee planting district at right angles and further railway communications will be required to bring produce from Koppa and the Bababudins in the North and from Coorg in the South. In the case of the Manantoddy Project above the ghaut the line will run the whole length through planting country, below the ghaut it will run through rubber country and some of the richest parts of Malabar.

When speaking at Meppadi last September Sir Harold Stuart pointed out that this line below the ghaut would undoubtedly pay from the very start, and he had hopes that the heavy traffic of the portion averaged over the whole line would enable it to pay even if only a small way from the beginning. He refused to consider the line piecemeal. Similarly, it would be right to consider the construction cost, and if this were done, it would be found that the cost of the small length of ghaut section would not increase the average cost per mile to an alarming extent.

The Resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Richards to read the note that he had favoured them with in Committee. Mr. Richards accordingly read the following:—

At the meeting on Monday, the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber suggested that I may be able to make a cheering utterance about the prospects of the Shoranur-Manantoddy Railway Project. All that I can say about the scheme at present is that it is very strongly favoured by the Government of Madras, on three grounds:—

(i) as a north and south metre-gauge connection;

(ii) as a feeder to the Port of Cochin, and

(iii) for the development of rubber and tea plantations in the Wynaad and the Nilgiris.

I was up in Ootacamund for a few days about two months ago, when Sir Harold Stuart and Mr. Murray kindly allowed me to take copies of a lot of papers about the Shoranur-Manantoddy project and of Mr. Murray's map of the line. Next month, or the month after, I hope to go to Manantoddy to learn a little more about the project on the spot. As you are probably aware, I know very little about this part of India, so my present position is that of a child taking notes. The Railway Board of India sent me down here last March, with the following orders:—

To carry out a reconnaissance with the object of forming a scheme of railway extension for

(i) the provison of railway communication between a port on the West Coast of India and the hinterland, including Coorg and the adjacent parts of Mysore and British territory, and

(ii) the opening out of the Province of Coorg.

I was subsequently directed to undertake a detailed enquiry into the traffic prospects of the Nanjangud-Erode Railway Project—this may possibly be classed as a Mysore and West Coast Railway project—for it would shorten the railway journey from Mysore to Cochin and other ports on the West Coast.

You may perhaps be interested to hear that my orders resulted from discussions which Sir Robert Gillan, now President of the Railway Board, had with planters and officials when he was here about two years ago. It may be noticed that the Province of Coorg figures largely in my instructions. Sir Robert Gillan was favourably impressed with the prospects of a railway from Mysore City to Siddapur; this Project has been vigorously pushed by Sir Hugh Daly and the Mysore Durbar and by the District Board and planters of Coorg, with the result that it is now in a forward condition and there seems to be a fair chance of cutting the first sod of a railway to Siddapur or Fraserpet next year. The District Board of Coorg have resolved to tax themselves in order to finance a Mysore-Coorg Railway: by this means they will get a railway into Coorg very much earlier than they could get one built from the revenues of the Government of India. I venture to suggest that it may be good policy for the Wynaad to follow the example of Coorg, and put their money, in the first instance, on a Manantoddy-Mysore Railway instead of a railway from Manantoddy to Shoranur, or to any point on the West Coast. The complete Wynaad-Shoranur scheme comprises an extension from Manantoddy to Siddapur, in Coorg, and another extension to Nanjangud, either *via.* Gudalur or from Manantoddy along the Kabbani River. My suggestion is that the Manantoddy-Nanjangud section should be the first part of the scheme to be undertaken. The Mysore Durbar have already started a survey for a railway or tramway to connect the Kakankote forests with the Mysore State Railways. Assuming that the Durbar will run their line along the north bank of the Kabbani River to their frontier, it will be necessary for the Wynaad to build only ten or eleven miles of railway to get a station within a mile-and-a-half of the centre of Manantoddy town. After these ten or eleven miles have been built (or simultaneously, if the money can be found so soon), we can get on with the Manantoddy-Siddapur line and with that portion of the Manantoddy Shoranur-Railway which lies on the plateau above the Western Ghauts.

It is probable that we shall eventually get a railway running in a northerly direction near the watershed of India from Meppadi, through Manantoddy, Siddapur (or Pollibetta), Fraserpet and Arkalgud to Saklashpur, and perhaps to Mudigere, or even further north. Such a line would link up the planting districts of Mysore and Coorg and the Wynaad. Then the Manantoddy-Nanjangud and Siddapur-Mysore Railways, with a third railway, in the neighbourhood of Saklashpur and Hassan, would link up all these districts with the Mysore State Railways and with the railways of British India. Thus all the districts would be connected with any line or lines that may eventually be built to connect Mysore with the West Coast.

Regarding the Hassan-Mangalore Railway, I look on this particular line as merely one of many Mysore and West Coast railways on which I am expected to report. I know of a dozen such lines which are feasible, and I expect to hear of more : they range from the Shimoga-Bhatkal line in the north to the Manantoddy Shoranur line in the south. Though all these lines are feasible, there is not one that is cheap. Anyone of them entails a sharp descent of something like 2,000 or 3,000 feet down the Western Ghauts. The descent requires something like twelve to eighteen miles of very expensive work, with a ruling gradient of 1 in 25, or nearly double those lengths with a ruling gradient of 1 in 40 ; the ghaut sections will cost so much that money is not likely to be forthcoming for more than one—or at the most two —Mysore and West Coast Railways for very many years. I am now trying to find out which one, or which two, of all the feasible Mysore and West Coast Railways ought to be built when money is available. The following is a list of the feasible projects referred to :—

(i) from Shimoga to Bhatkal or Shirali (*alias* Venkatpur);

(ii) from Shimoga *via* the Chakra Nadi to Kundapur, or some other port south of Kundapur ;

(iii) from Halekote on the Mysore-Arsikere Railway, along the Hemavati River to Saklashpur and thence along the surveyed Hassan-Mangalore Line ;

(iv) from Hosagrahar or Chik Vaddargundi on the Mysore-Arsikere Railway, along the left bank of the Cauvery River through Fraserpet and thence ;

(*a*) *via* the Sampaji Ghaut to Mangalore or Kasargod, or

(*b*) *via* the Periambadi Ghaut and the line surveyed by Mr. Groves to Tellicherry or to Azhikkal ;

(v) from Sagarkatte or Yedatore on the Mysore-Arsikere Railway along the Lakshman Tirtha to Hudikere and thence.

(*a*) *via* the Periambadi Ghaut to Azhikkal or Tellicherry or,

(*b*) near Sigamani and Malaperumankotlam to Azhikkal or Tellicherry ;

(vi) from Nanjangud along the Kabbani River to a station near Manantoddy in the Wynaad and thence ;

(*a*) through the Smuggler's Pass to Azhikkal or Tellicherry ;

(*b*) through a pass near Tondar, and along the Mahê River to Tellicherry or Mahè ;

(*c*) through a pass south-east of Tariyott along the Kutyadi and Murat Rivers to Badagara, or

(*d*) south-eastward to the Limerick Tea Estate near Pandalur and then southwards near Nilambur to Shoranur.

On the motion of Mr. C. E. Abbott the meeting then studied a map and list of railways covered by Mr. Richards' Note.

The Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.

Mr. C. LAKE proposed and Mr. L. E. Kirwan seconded :—"That in view of the recent inspection by Mr. Richards of the proposed route of the Arsikere-Mangalore line, the Government of India be again approached through the Governments of Madras and Mysore as to the desirability of carrying out this Project."

Mr. LAKE said :—This subject has been on the agenda for so many years now that there is little that I can add to what has already been said in its favour. Mr. Richards, Adviser to Government on railway matters, has recently inspected the proposed route of this railway, and this fact leads us to hope that Governments are still favourably considering its construction. We know that it is the intention of the Government of India and Mysore to construct a line some where through the planting districts of Mysore to the West Coast, and I am instructed by my Association to again bring forward the claim of the Arsikere-Mangalore route as being the most favourable outlet for the produce of Mysore. I beg to propose, therefore, the Resolution.—That in view of the recent inspection by Mr. Richards of the proposed route of this Railway the Government of India be again approached through the Governments of Madras and Mysore as to desirability of carrying out this project. (Carried).

It has been suggested that a railway through the Wynaad and Coorg to Saklashpur, with an outlet to the coast in Coorg, would be more beneficial than the Arsikere-Mangalore scheme, but I do not think this would be the case so far as Mysore is concerned. The line is now being constructed from Arsikere to Hassan, and from the latter place on to Mangalore is little more than 100 miles. I consider that Mangalore will always remain the natural port on the coast for the produce of Mysore, and any line running parallel to the Western Ghaut with its outlet to the coast in Coorg or further south would not be of much use to Mysore, so long as the present mode of transport by cart continues as cheap and efficient as it now is. Mr. Richards has raised the question of the heavy cost of a railway leading direct through the ghaut to the coast as likely to deter the Government of India from constructing more than one ghaut section line. Our point is that in the Arsikere-Mangalore scheme, nearly the whole cost of the ghaut section will fall on the Government of Mysore, and in 1913 we were given the assurance of the Dewan that the Government of Mysore were prepared to carry out their part of this Project.

Mr. J. G. HAMILTON remarked that Mr. Barber had brought up an old argument, unfortunately founded on fact, that Mangalore was not an open port. At the same time they had been able to get through their produce. Tea and rubber were practically prepared produce, ready for shipment really on the Estate ; but in the case of coffee, 75 per cent. was sent to the coast uncured. It was hardly reasonable, therefore, to expect that the curers on the coast could transfer their

large establishments and skilled labour to Cochin. It was not reasonable to expect that such trained labour could be moved. Mangalore, again, was not only a town of export, but a large manufacturing centre, the traffic in tiles only being enormous. There was more traffic than most people were aware of. It was a populous district, and the passenger traffic was considerable. Government certainly had larger problems to consider, but the northern districts had very obvious objections to a southern port. (Applause).

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that he was sorry that it had been supposed he was not speaking in favour of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, but it was no secret that during two or three months of the year the port of Mangalore could not be used. He had only referred to it in comparison with Cochin. He would still maintain that, as far as the planting districts went, it was not a complete scheme. The railway would touch very little of the planting districts and would be wanting further lines north and south to tap the produce of Coorg and the Bababudins.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON said there was a necessity for a produce market in Southern India; that depended on the Cochin Harbour scheme. He voted many years ago for the Arsikere-Mangalore Scheme, but he now felt that it was very necessary to impress on Government the importance of a produce market.

Mr. RICHARDS.—Last year the Association was in favour of the Shimoga-Bhatkal scheme; I would like to know if you still favour it?

Mr. LAKE.—We only supported that scheme because we thought that the Arsikere-Mangalore one was dead; but our hopes have since been revived, and so we would like to support our own scheme again.

Mr. TIPPING said:—It seems to me that before giving our support to any one of the ten or twelve more schemes now before the Railway Board, we should be more familiar with their several merits. Most of us are not sufficiently in touch with the facts and figures which will influence Government in their final selection of a railway to the West Coast. Our thanks are due to Government for allowing their Adviser, Mr. Richards, to come here and give us his views and help us in every way, in coming to a decision. With regard to the Yedatore-Coorg branch line, I would like to point out once more, that this branch railway will not clash with any scheme likely to be adopted, but will, on the other hand, form a valuable-connecting link of a through line from Cochin or any South India port with Poona and the North.

Mr. LAKE'S Resolution was then carried unanimously.

The Madura-Bodinayakanur Railway.

Mr. E. A. HUGHES proposed that in view of the increasing interests and development of tea in the High Range of Travancore and the urgent need of improved facilities of transport and communication, this Association would ask the Government of Madras to advise the Madura District Board to begin the earthwork construction of the railway from Madura to Bodinayakanur, with as little further delay as possible, so as to be in a position to complete the line as soon as possible after the conclusion of the War.

Mr. C. A. LAKE seconded the Resolution.

Mr. HUGHES urged that the matter was of extraordinary importance to them in the High Range of Travancore. The country absolutely

relied for its supplies on outside. They only produced tea and other planting produce, and the railway was of immense importance. They quite recognised that full construction could not be put in hand just now, but as labour was available, the earthwork might be started. The traffic survey results showed very fair possibilities and they themselves thought that a 10 per cent. dividend should be forthcoming after placing a very fair amount to depreciation. The original idea was a line from Kodaikanal Road to Bodinayakanur; but the Government, on the suggestion of Mr. Knapp, the Collector, had decided in favour of an alignment from Madura to Bodinayakanur. This ran through country that presented very little engineering difficulties and could be put through cheaply and quickly. The Cumbum Valley was a potential source of wealth, the soil being rich cotton, under the Periyar Reservoir.

Mr. BABBER.—The main point is that Government did not alter the alignment at all, but the Madura District Board, who cannot be forced to spend any money on what they did not want. I can say it was not due to the action of Government.

Mr. A. J. WRIGHT said they were in the position of having the money. The District Board, so he was assured, had their moiety available now, and if pressure was applied, there was every likelihood of construction being put in hand at once. He would, therefore, make some reference to the District Board in the Resolution.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Roads in the Anamalais.

Permission having been given to bring up this subject for discussion as no notice had previously been given, Mr. J. H. Robinson proposed, and Mr. S. P. Eaton seconded, the following Resolution:—"That the attention of the Government be invited to the State of the roads in the Anamalai District, and that in regard to road contracts steps be taken to remove an undoubted misunderstanding between the Public Works Department and the planters."

In doing so he said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN.—My Association has asked me to bring up at the meeting the matter of the state of the roads in the Anamalais. During the past three years numerous complaints from the Association have gone in to the local authorities regarding the state of the roads, but, so far, the complaints have met with little redress, and in the meanwhile the conditions of the roads show little improvement. It is because of the very serious matter it would be to the district if there was a breach on our ghaut road, even only for a few days, that my Association considers it advisable to bring the matter to the notice of Government through this Association. The allowance for upkeep on the main ghaut road during the year 1909-10 was Rs. 761 and, five years later, during the year 1914-15, Rs. 14,387. The acreage under cultivation in 1909-10 was approximately, only 7,500 acres, the acreage under cultivation in 1915 was 11,500 acres an increase of acreage of 65 per cent., whereas the annual allowance for upkeep on the road has remained practically stationary during these years. In the year 1910, the ghaut road served only eight estates, to-day it is serving 22. A sum of Rs. 28,161, or an increase of 53 per cent. over the expenditure on the ghaut road for the previous six years, is entered against the expenditure on the ghaut road for the year 1915-16. I recently wrote

to the Executive Engineer, asking him whether this amount has been actually spent, or was only estimated to be spent, but I have received no reply. The contracts between the Public Works Department and the planters are made out for the calendar year, whereas the Department's official year is from the 1st April to the 31st March. This has led to confusion, and it would be more satisfactory if the contracts were made out for the same period as the Department's official year. At the present moment it cannot be easily ascertained what sum has been actually spent over a certain period on any of the branch roads in the District, the contractor's year being for a different twelve months to the Department's. When this matter was recently gone into at the request of the Planting Member, the allowance granted to the contractor per mile was, in every instance, found to be much less than that stated by the Executive Engineer. It is, therefore, with the hope of having an early improvement in the condition of our District roads and of getting the present misunderstanding cleared up with regard to the road contracts, that I have put forward this Resolution on behalf of my Association and am asking the meeting to give it its support.

Postal Communications in Coorg.

In this case also special permission had to be accorded to bring this matter up for discussion.

Mr. P. G. TIPPING proposed that the U. P. A. S. I. wished to draw the attention of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to the frequent misconnection of mail trains between Madras and Mysore, thereby causing a delay of 24 hours in the delivery of mails in Coorg, and would also draw attention to the unnecessary delay in the delivery of internal mails on the Somwarpett and Suntikoppa sections owing to the mails to these places going *via* Fraserpet, instead of *via* Mercara, to which attention was drawn so long ago as last April.

Mr. HATTON ROBINSON having seconded the motion, Mr. Tipping said.—In bringing forward this Resolution, I would ask your indulgence and thank our Chairman for allowing me to claim your support for a Resolution, of which due notice was not given. Our excuse for not giving proper notice was that from day to day we hoped to get redress. There is very little for me to say on the subject. It is a real live grievance, which can readily be remedied by the Postal authorities. Our Association has already approached the Superintendent of Post Offices in our Circle on the subject of delay in delivery of internal mails some four or more months ago, and, as you will all agree, these are most annoying at a time when every one is most keen to be in touch with the latest developments in the various theatres of the war, and other current matters, and I think you will also agree that we in Coorg are justified in claiming your support in our endeavour to press this matter on the attention of the Postal Authorities.

The Resolution was adopted.

The Labour Department.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) said.—I would like to record thanks for myself and those subscribers for whom I feel responsible to the Executive Committee of the Labour Department, for the way they have suggested of obtaining the opinion of all subscribers. I feel certain they

have acted wisely, they will remove that egg of discontent which was hatching, and will not only bring new life to the department but ensure to it a new lease of life. Non-subscribers with whom I have had the opportunity of discussing labour matters are of the opinion that the Department's activities have improved the general tone of maistries and coolies. This will be welcome news to that active mind which is the head of the department. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to take care of that mind, by getting the best assistance they can to release it from overwork. They may have to pay highly for such assistance, but our money has been subscribed to be spent and not to be hoarded. The Labour Department is an experiment, and I, for one, hope that it has come to stay.

The statement was recorded.

Sale of Waste Lands in the Nilgiris.

Mr. A. S. DANDISON (Nilgiris) moved that this Meeting suggests an extension of the Darkhast Rules to apply in place of the Waste Land Rules to all Planting Districts, or that the Supplemental Rules to be so extended as to allow of a larger area being taken up under them.

Mr. TRAVERS-DRAPES (Shevaroys) seconded the Resolution.

Mr. DANDISON in moving the Resolution said:—Our reason for bringing this forward is that under our present Waste Land Rules the applicant for land, even if his own estate forms its boundary on three sides, has to bid at public auction for it, having no preference whatever, and the recent reduction of the amount of land which can be granted under the Supplemental Rules has made our position worse. The present system of auction is open to abuse, in that anyone can bid for and buy land that adjoins our estates, and hold it as speculation, knowing that in many cases the planter will pay a premium to obtain it, not for its agricultural value, but for the convenience of rounding off his estate, or, say, making a road which will save a long round to another part of his estate, etc. Instances have occurred when prices out of all possible proportion to the actual value of the land have had to be paid. On the other hand, blocks of land have gone for a song to some lucky applicant, so that at present when one applies for land one never knows what it is likely to cost. The Darkhast Rules apply elsewhere, and if these were extended to us it would be, we think, more satisfactory all round. Of course we should expect to pay so much per acre for all land granted, and a fixed value might be placed (varying in different localities) so that Government Revenue would not suffer by the change. If the powers-that-be do not wish the present Waste Land Rules to be changed, then we ask that the area obtainable under the Supplemental Rules be increased.

I would like to emphasise the point that we do not object to genuine competition at auction, but do strongly object to being run up by anyone who may do it either as a speculation or for the fun of making the poor planter poorer still.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) suggested that the wording of the Resolution should be altered as follows, namely, that instead of the words "in place of the Waste Land Rules," the words "in addition to the Waste Land Rules" should be used. In the Wynaad both rules ran side by side. It was not necessary, if Mr. Dandison's suggestion was adopted, to do away with the Waste Land Rules.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER suggested another verbal alteration. He suggested that instead of the words an "extension of the Darkhast Rules" it should be "an extension of a modified form of the Darkhast Rules."

Mr. WADDINGTON said if Mr. Barber's amendment was carried a man might have to pay for the land. Under the Darkhast Rules the land was free, except under exceptional circumstances. When a man applied for land under the Darkhast Rules, he had only to pay for the timber on the land. There was no actual upset price in addition to the assessment.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER.—He does not pay for the land.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad). He has to pay for the timber, which is the real obstacle. You may have to pay an excess price for the timber. I know of cases in the Wynaad where men have withdrawn their applications for waste land under the Darkhast Rules when they found out the price that Government had put upon the timber.

The CHAIRMAN put the amended Resolution which ran as follows:—

"That this Meeting suggests an extension of a modified form of the Darkhast Rules to apply, in addition to the Waste Land Rules, to all Planting Districts, or that the Supplemental Rules be so extended as to allow of a larger area being taken up under them."

It was duly carried.

Excess Profits Tax.

Mr. L. E. KIRWAN (Bababudins) proposed and Mr. S. P. EATON (Mundakayam), seconded the following Resolution:—

"That with regard to the excess profits duty, the United Planters' Association of Southern India accords to the Rubber Growers' Association and the Indian Tea Association its hearty support in the efforts they are making to have the statutory percentage increase to 25 per cent in the case of Rubber and 12 per cent. in the case of Tea; and that the Secretary be asked to bring this Resolution to the notice of the Chairman of these bodies as soon as possible with the request that they will press for an early decision. At the same time to ask our Representative on the London Chamber of Commerce to take action with a view to attaining this end." (Carried).

In doing so Mr. KIRWAN said.—It is hardly necessary to remind you perhaps that the original idea of this tax by the Home Government was the confiscation of a portion of the additional profits made by certain firms directly as a cause of the war—a very reasonable proceeding. Then, however, Mr. McKenna made it apply to all undertakings, the proposal he made in September last being to take 50 per cent of all profits above those made in any of the preceding three years, or in the case of Companies which had paid no dividends 50 per cent. of all profits earned above 6 per cent. This 6 per cent is what is meant in the Resolution by the statutory percentage. In his last Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer raised his demand from 50 to 60 per cent.

None of us wish to evade responsibilities in these times, but all admit, that this tax as devised at present, is monstrously unfair. Why, for instance, should shareholders in young Companies which are just

emerging into the profit earning stage, as several South Indian Compaies are doing, be penalised, while those who own shares in wealthy, old-established and large dividend paying Companies like Linggi go free? Why should concerns with registered offices in the United Kingdom be subject to this tax and those with their offices in India, Ceylon or Malaya escape? And why should Companies with highly watered capital be permitted to profit by such watering, as at present, as compared with Companies run on more conservative lines?

There is no answer to these questions. We can only hope that a tax that is so unfair in its incidence will not be retained a day longer than is necessary. Better schemes have been suggested and some of them, while lessening the burdens of the few, would bring more grist to the Chancellor's mill than this tax; but if we advocated one of them it might be introduced and retained permanently. It is better surely for us to endure an inequitable tax for the period of the war than be subjected to an equitable duty that is to continue.

My Resolution, which Mr. Eaton has kindly promised to second, has been framed in accordance with the proposals sent in to the Board of Referees which has been appointed at Home to deal with these matters, by the bodies representing our interests in London—in the case of rubber by the Rubber Growers' Association, and in that of tea by the Indian and Ceylon Tea Associations in London, acting conjointly. We may give the leaders of these industries credit for having investigated this matter very thoroughly and formed their conclusions after the most careful enquiry. In the case of coffee, I regret to say, there is small prospect of any excessive profits.

And above all things we want an early decision. The uncertainty which has prevailed in this connection since last September has caused, and is still causing the greatest inconvenience to the Companies concerned.

The CHAIRMAN.—Would you consider it necessary to somewhat amend your Resolution, as it does not appear clear to some people why the statutory percentage ought to be increased to 25 per cent. when it is only 6 per cent.

Mr. KIRWAN in explanation said:—Supposing Kerala was in a position to pay a 30 pet cent. dividend, at present the Government would say: "Take your 6 per cent. and of the remaining 24 per cent. we will take 60 per cent. and you can take 40 per cent." If the statutory percentage was raised to 25 per cent. the Government would take 60 per cent. of the remaining 5 per cent. and leave the Company 40 per cent. It makes a great deal of difference.

The Chairman then put the Resolution which was carried.

Factory Acts and Regulations.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) made the following statement:—Since our last Meeting the West Coast Planters' Association has had correspondence with the Government of the Cochin State as regards Factory Regulation, which may be of interest to other Associations.

Towards the close of 1915, the authorities called upon planters in Cochin to immediately cease the practice of working on Sundays in Rubber Factories, as doing so was against the provisions of the Factory Regulation in that State. Conditions as to work in Factories

is regulated by Act XII of 1911 in British India, by Regulation V of 1089 in Travancore and Regulation VII of 1083 in Cochin. By a clause in the First Chapter of Act XII, all factories and curing houses on indigo, coffee and tea plantations and concerns are exempt from all provisions of the Act. By a similar clause in the Travancore Regulation, in addition to above, factories on rubber and cardamom estates are also exempt. And in both British India and Travancore all factories employing less than 50 hands per diem are excluded from the Regulations. Although the wording of the Cochin Regulation follows very closely that of the British and Travancore Acts, a different arrangement of its sections and paragraphs causes rubber factories employing machinery to become subject to all the provisions laid down by the Act, and it was illegal to work on Sundays, or employ any person more than six days in any week.

All these Acts and Regulations stipulate that the local Government have the right at any time of exempting any special industry if good cause is shown. We petitioned the Dewan of Cochin and in his letter of the 28th March, 1916, he informed us that he had granted our request and that rubber factories had been exempted from the provisions of sections 6 (1) and 7 (1) of Cochin Regulation VII of 1083, which was all we had asked for and rubber factories in Cochin and employees therein can now work as heretofore seven days in the week.

There then remains the matter of rubber factories in British India. I consulted the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, as to whether the provision that factories employing less than 50 hands, which is a larger number than we are likely to ever want in any Factory, was sufficient to leave the matter where it is, or whether we should press that rubber factories should be specially exempted. If at any later time we think that desirable, I anticipate no difficulty, the intention of those who framed the Act appears to have been to exempt those agricultural industries in which the process of curing is a continuous one. But my opinion is, and I believe it to be shared by the Hon'ble Mr. Barber, that the provision that factories employing less than 50 hands do not come under the Act makes it unnecessary for us at present to move further in the matter.

As the matter may come before you at some future date I have to propose that the statement made by me be recorded.

Mercantile Shipping Tonnage.

Mr. HUGHES moved:—"That this Association desires to request the Government of India, through the Madras Government, to represent to the Imperial Government the necessity for steps being taken to replace the losses of mercantile shipping tonnage and thus to ensure the necessary cargo carrying capacity being available at the termination of hostilities, to relieve the present situation, which has caused freights on planting produce to London to be almost quadrupled since the outbreak of the war, and which threatens to restrict planting developments seriously."

Mr. HUGHES said that before the war the cost of freight was 33 shillings a ton and it had since more than quadrupled, and made a difference of one-third of a penny roughly in the pound. It made a tremendous difference to the cost of putting planters' products on the market at home. They were no doubt aware that outside countries were carrying on a heavy ship-building programme to cut in and carry

the trade of the world after the war. He quoted the following tonnage figures in building.

German Mercantile Shipping Tonnage building was as follows.—

Hamburg-America Line	152,000 tons.
Vulcan Yard	72,000 „
Flensburg Yard	26,000 „
Geestemunde	34,000 „
Hamburg-South America Line?	
N. D. L. Line	246,000 „
Africa Line	66,000 „
Hansa Line	88,000 „
Kosmos Line	110,000 „
Also a number of vessels tonnage not mentioned ...	
	794,000 „

Launched in the U. K. in 1915, 650,919 tons only.
Register U. S. A. from Lloyd's

1914	200,762 tons.
1915	277,460 „
1916	1,129,014 „

under construction at May 1st.

While outside countries were so wide-awake, he thought shippers out here should have some definite information as to how their requirements were goiug to be met after the war. They all recognised, of course, the great efforts required to keep up the Imperial Navy, and they did not forget either the large percentage of mercantile tonnage impressed for war service ; all this would come back, but the position would be far from satisfactory in comparison with what America and Germany would be able to do. He was aware that certain steps were being taken in the United Kingdom, especially with regard to the standardisation of new tonnage. But he nevertheless thought it was in the interests of all that a Resolution of this kind should be sent up to the Imperial Government, if only to draw their attention to the need of putting British shippers on all fours with the shipbuilding, programme of their neighbours.

The CHAIRMAN said the motive was an excellent one. The figures quoted were astounding and the author must really be in the secret intelligence department of foreign shipping (Laughter). Also, they must be in a very bad way in England if they must get this Resolution from the U. P. A. S. I. All shippers must be as keen as they were on the subject. The real reason was that all the available British yards were engaged on building war-ships. He did not expect much result from this Resolution—but he would certainly not throw cold water on it.

Mr. ABBOTT.—There is a great deal in what you say ; we cannot, of course, ask them to stop building war-ships. But I would emphasize that part of the Resolution referriug to the increase in freights from India. I am really afraid to say from memory what it has come to. Freight that usually cost 30 shillings to Italy is £20 a ton now and as for ourselves freight has certainly quadrupled. The rate by the last Clan boat from the West Coast was 177 shillings, about six times the normal.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER remarked that in Calcutta it was between 40 and 50 shillings and in Bombay between 50 and 60. It was the intermediate ports that were so dear. A friend of his had told him

that it had been found cheaper to ship an engine out to Calcutta and then rail it to Southern India than to ship it through a Madras port.

Mr. HUGHES.—Mr. Barber has probably overlooked one fact in the rate for terminal ports. The Calcutta Tea Association are in the happy position of enjoying a fixed rate till the termination of the war, so that the rise in freights does not affect them so badly as it does us.

Mr. HUGHES's Resolution was then carried.

Export Duty on Tea.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) proposed that "This Association urges, with reference to the export duty on tea from India, that a countervailing duty be imposed on all foreign teas imported into the United Kingdom."

Mr. T. C. FORBES (Central Travancore) seconded the motion.

Mr. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he did not think it was necessary to say much in support of the Resolution as it spoke for itself. The present export on tea practically amounted to a bonus to all foreign grown competing in the London markets, more especially Java, which was sending large quantities. It was represented to him in Committee that there was an export duty on tea from Formosa and one or two other countries. This, however, did not matter to them. He still maintained that this export duty on tea from India placed them at a disadvantage. He thought it was right, therefore, to ask the British Government to put a countervailing duty on all foreign grown tea. He would, therefore, move the Resolution which stood in the name of the Wynaad Association.

The Resolution was adopted.

The Import Duty on Coffee.

Mr. JACKSON (Coorg) proposed and Mr. E. A. Hughes (Kanan Devan) seconded the following Resolution:—

"Whilst recognizing the necessity of taxation, and willingly paying such import duties as the Imperial Government have deemed fit to impose on the importation of coffee into the United Kingdom, this Association wish to bring to the notice of the Imperial Government, the present position of coffee, which owing to the great restrictions of markets, and lack of tonnage, etc., brought about by the War, has had a serious setback, and views with alarm and apprehension the possibility of any further increase of the import duty, which would most seriously affect the financial stability of the industry."

In doing so Mr. Jackson said.—With regard to this proposition, I wish to point out coffee, as an enterprise is not in the same position as tea and rubber, both of which are booming in consequence of the War, whereas coffee on the other hand has been terribly handicapped owing to the fact that our chief European markets are closed to us. It is not necessary for me to point out the difficulties of tonnage freight, etc., as these points have been fully dealt with in Resolutions and discussions dealing with tea and rubber.

The Resolution was carried.

The Planters' Benevolent Fund.

Mr. WADDINGTON (West Coast) seconded by Mr. Tipping and by Mr. Richardson moved the following Resolutions: Mr. Waddington explained the first Resolution, but the others were consequential.

Mr. WADDINGTON and Mr. Tipping and Mr. Waddington and Mr Richardson put the following Resolutions, referring to the Planters' Benevolent Fund, which were carried:—

To amend Rule IX (*c*) of the Rules of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund, by inserting between the words "years" and "will" the additional words "or any subscriber on the payment of the difference between Rs. 200 and such sum as he may have already subscribed to the Fund." So that Rule IX (*c*) shall read:—

"A donor of Rs. 200 to the Benevolent Fund, or an annual subscriber of Rs. 40 for five years, or any subscriber on the payment of the difference between Rs. 200 and such sum as he may have already subscribed to the fund, will be welcome as a Patron, and have a copy, etc."

To amend Rule VI by addition of the words "or placed at deposit with the Bank of Madras," so that it should read:—"VI. That the surplus funds shall be invested in Government Securities or placed at deposit with the Bank of Madras, at the discretion of the Finance Committee."

To amend Rule IV by substitution of "Bank of Madras" in place of Mercantile Bank of India, Madras, so that the Rule shall read:—

"That the Funds shall be kept at the Bank of Madras, which will make investments and only honour cheques signed jointly by the Chairman and the Secretary."

Mr. WADDINGTON said:—The proposed amendments to the Rules of our Benevolent Fund standing in my name are self-explanatory, but for the information of those who do not know why the question has arisen, I would tell you that shortly after the appeal made by the Chairman at the last Meeting for better support of the Fund, one of the District Associations wrote saying that a member was willing to give the difference between what he had already contributed and Rs. 200, on condition that he was made a Patron.

Under the Rules the offer could not be accepted, and there can be no doubt, that when the Rules were framed the feeling of those who drafted them was against such a proposal. On the matter being referred to me, a member of the Finance Committee, I voted against accepting the offer. My inclination was to uphold the original idea of offering men an inducement in the way of saving them the trouble attaching to a small annual subscription, by making a single payment which entitled them to become Patrons for life. But further consideration has modified that view. It seems to me better policy for the Fund to accept at any time any difference between that already received from a subscriber and Rs. 200, than to speculate on his remaining in India or surviving or even remembering, to pay his Rs. 10 indefinitely. I think I need add nothing more; you will all understand the difficulty there is in collecting this small annual subscription and the number of cases that have occurred in which men subscribed once or for a few years and then forgot the Fund. The simple amendment I propose, is better than the making of a new Rule, which would involve reciting anew the benefits to which the subscriber becomes entitled. The other amendments are consequential on what has already been done at this Meeting. I, therefore, propose and would ask some one to second the Resolutions.

The Resolutions were all put together and carried.

The Planters' Chronicle.

Mr. NICOLLS (Nilgiris) proposed and Mr. Waddington (West Coast) seconded, the following Resolution! "That a list of current bulletins on agricultural matters be published in the *Planters' Chronicle* with particulars as to where obtainable and the cost."

Mr. NICOLLS said that the Resolution was self-explanatory. He merely suggested it as a ready reference for planters in which they could find all such literature as they would or ought to keep in their libraries.

The Resolution was carried.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER moved and Mr. E. A. Hughes seconded, the following resolution: "That this Association do accord a most hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Cecil Wood, Principal of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore for his kindness in preparing a cover design for the *Planters' Chronicle*."

Mr. BARBER explained again the circumstance under which Mr. Wood came to prepare the design.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON proposed and Mr. E. A. Hughes seconded, the following Resolution: "That this Association, while approving Mr. Wood's design, is anxious that other designs should be submitted before making a definite choice, and members of the Planting Community are specially invited to submit designs."

The Resolution was carried and the Meeting adjourned for lunch.

The delegates met for the closing session at 2 P.M., when the following subjects were disposed of:—

St. George's Homes.

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the Resolution, already published, from the Chair, said that there was nothing further to be said on this subject, after the eloquent appeal made by Mr. Breeden and the splendid response that had been made to it.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

British Empire Union and Alien Enemies.

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. A. Richardson:—That this Association do strongly support the views expressed in the *Madras Mail* and those by the Madras and Bengal Chambers of Commerce, and do vigorously combat the admission of enemy aliens into India. Further that this Association feels that it is most important that it should lend its weight to obtain prohibitive restrictions against alien enemy goods in Indian markets which may be imported to the detriment of British Allies and Indian Trading subjects.

Mr. NICOLLS said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—In speaking to the Resolution that stands in my name, I do not think anything will be gained by my angrily referring to the many atrocities committed by our alien enemies. I despise them and their leaders, and leave it there, but we must endeavour to suggest means that will safeguard ourselves and future generations of our great Empire from the appalling sacrifices of life, blood and treasure which it has been our sorrow to witness.

and, with that object in view, we must see that they and their evil cunning are securely chained, until they have washed out the stain left on that which was once believed to be a progressive nation, working for the good of mankind. The *Madras Mail* and the European Association both advocate strong policies; if these are carried through, it will mean the end of German control and influence.

How these two factors have without our knowledge, been slowly strangling our progression and hold in life's battle is now only coming to light; but, gentlemen, we want more than trade protection, the character of all and every one that walks on soil over which the British flag flies must be guarded against their devilish cunning. The leaders of the German nation know their "number is up." Are they going to sit down and cry? No. Already they are conjuring up ways and means from which they will hope, not only to regain their lost trade, but to increase that evil influence which they no doubt held over the nation's body and soul. Contagion must be removed, that noxious influence cast away. The German must be ostracised, there must be ostracism of all German influence, moral and financial. Naturalisation must disappear for ever, and never again should the Germans or their bastard allies hold positions that can give them the control of our trade, or the directing of our nation's policies.

I have already referred to the British Empire Union and the European Association. I ask you to support both the aims and objects of the first, *i.e.*, (1) to foster national ideals and to keep alive the patriotic spirit of the people; (2) to defend British freedom, rights and privileges against German aggression; (3) to defend British industry and British labour against German competition—to fight against German influence in our social, financial, industrial and political life. It is one of the duties of every Britisher in India who can become a member of the second Association to do so.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, in the Resolution, said that he had much pleasure in doing so. He did not think that there was much that he could add to what had already been said. He remembered that a great many years ago, when he was engaged with some others in a strike, or mutiny, against oppression, he had listened to a most eloquent speech which had made the blood of all who heard it boil. When the recital of their grievances by the speaker was over, for some reason or another a little chap, a Dane, asked permission to second the Resolution. He was not a good speaker in his own language, and his knowledge of English was imperfect; but he expressed perfectly the views of the Meeting when pointing to the previous speaker he said:—"Brother comrades, that is what I say."

The Book of Proceedings.

Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON proposed and Mr. A. W. Leslie seconded the following Resolution:—

That all delegates advise their local Associations to authorise their Secretaries to order a copy of the yearly Book of Proceedings for every member and distribute them either free or recover the cost from their members as may be arranged.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that there was little further to add to what he had said in Committee in support of the Resolution. He knew the feeling was that men wanted the Book of Proceedings, but they did not bother to order a copy, and this resulted in their coming to this Meet-

ing without having read the proceedings of the last Meeting. He would only impress upon delegates the necessity of getting the Resolution acted on by their local Associations.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER thought that this was the proper time to appeal to all delegates to read the proceedings of the previous Meetings. It meant a lot of extra work when members brought up Resolutions which were identical with those that had been brought up and disposed of at a previous Meeting, and this fact was not remembered or not known.

The Kali Syndicate Fund.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER proposed and Mr. Waddington seconded the following Resolution:—

"That the Kali Syndicate Manurial Experiment Fund Account be closed and the balance transferred to the General Account for the use of the Scientific Department and that the Experimental Plot Fund be closed in the same manner." Mr. Barber said that he wished to make it quite clear that there was no intention of closing the experiments. It was only adding to the work of the Department to keep these accounts separately. Besides, in the case of the Kali Syndicate it would be a good thing to have this German name off their printed proceedings. The Resolution was adopted.

The Aircraft Fund.

Mr. LESCHER proposed and Mr. Aylmer Martin seconded that the balance in hand of the Aircraft Fund be remitted to the Overseas Aircraft Club, and the fund closed. The Resolution was carried.

Accounts.

Mr. J. A. NICOLLS proposed and Mr. Hughes seconded the following Resolution:—

That in consideration of the way the Bank of Madras met us at the outbreak of the War and helped us to tide over what might have been a serious financial disaster to our industries, it is proposed that our accounts be placed in the keeping of that Bank. In proposing the Resolution Mr. Nicolls said that it was not proposed to reflect on the other Banks. The Resolution was carried.

Election of the Planting Member of Council.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT and Mr. S. P. Eaton seconded the following Resolution:—

That the Government of Madras be asked to sanction this alteration in the rules of election to allow of nomination and suggest that the method of electing the Planting Member be altered so that every District Association be invited two months before the date of election to nominate any candidates that they wished and that only such candidates be eligible and that the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., issue balloting papers with the names printed on them.

Mr. ABBOTT speaking to the Resolution said that there was not much more to say on this subject. As the Meeting knew there were originally two proposals on the Agenda which were fully considered in Committee and one was eventually given up in favour of the Wynaad Resolution. That being so he thought it might be taken, for

granted that the delegates were agreed that there ought to be some change in the method of electing the Planting Member of Council. It was not necessary to say much more, but perhaps it would be just as well if the Meeting was given some information as to what they did and why they did it. In the old days when District Association Secretaries had the election of the Planting Member practically in their own hands, the matter was very simple. In his own case he got a letter from the retiring member who asked him if he would like to take on the job. He wrote back and said that he would, ordered a new suit of clothes, waited in modest obscurity till he got a letter from the Private Secretary saying that he had been elected. (Laughter). In the present day, no doubt a good deal more interest was taken in the whole business of Council election. He had a vote for the District Boards of Malabar and South Canara, and he had been approached by three or four candidates. It was not to be supposed that in this Association they would have so much competition as all that, still he did not think that that was any reason why candidates who wished to stand for election for the Council should not state their views and get a nomination for election. In that case they would know whom to vote for, and it would save what had happened at the last election. It was all over now and they had got the man the majority of the planters wanted, but there was no doubt a good deal of confusion and misconception, with the result that one or two Associations voted for a very desirable candidate, but one who was not standing and had no intention of standing. He thought that that ought to be avoided, and would be if this Resolution was carried and sanctioned by Government. He only wanted to add that there was some sort of an idea that there ought to be some restriction of the number of candidates, and that the Meeting here ought to be able to express an opinion as to whom they wanted to elect. There was not the slightest reason why they should not, there was no reason why a Vice-Chairman or delegate should not get up with the permission of the Chair and say that they would recommend so and so. For that matter, there was no reason why the Chairman, after the polite things they said to him at the end of the Meeting, should not say that though he did not believe half of them, the residue left him head and shoulders above his fellows, and that he, therefore, thought himself a fitting candidate, and nominated himself. (Laughter). All that they were asking for in the Wynaad was to know whom they were voting for and that there should be a regular system of knowing a couple of months before who the candidates were and why they were being put forward, so that when the balloting papers went round there would be no confusion. In his Association the members voted for four members, three of whom were not standing at all.

Mr. EATON said that it was not necessary to add anything to what Mr. Abbott had said. His Association had brought forward the original Resolution which had been improved on by the Wynaad Resolution. All that his Association wanted was a ruling on the question, which, he thought all would agree, was necessary after the present lack of method. He did not wish to raise a discussion, but he thought, with Mr. Abbott, that it was a good thing if more than one candidate stood. He would like to say that had there been a candidate from the Southern Association, his Association would have had much pleasure in supporting Mr. Richardson's candidature. They all knew how much he had done for the planting industry and if Mr. Richardson had stood, he was quite sure he would have had a

good percentage of votes. However, as Mr. Richardson had not stood, his Association had great pleasure in supporting voting for Mr. Barber.

The Resolution was then adopted.

Labour Department.

In connection with the Labour Department, Mr. J. H. Robinson (Anamalais), made the following observation regarding the remarks made by the Director in his report :—

I have a few remarks to make on Mr. Martin's report. When one realises the extent to which the Department has been handicapped by the loss of two of its senior officers, men who at any time could not be easily replaced, one can only marvel at the amount of work that has been done during the past twelve months. This being the case, I feel rather embarrassed with regard to the instructions given me by my Association to bring up at this Meeting some points which will entail further work on the Department, because I do not wish to give Mr. Martin the impression that my Association does not recognise the heavy work that now falls upon his shoulders, or that it has not the greatest sympathy for the Department working short-handed and under difficulties. My Association had asked me to say that it considers that the Department should establish more out-agencies at the earliest possible opportunity. There have been grave complaints in my district against the agent of one of the most important of the Coimbatore District Out-agencies. (In Committee I mentioned the name of this agency). My Association also complains of caste men being employed as agents in the Taluks where there are only low-caste coolies to be recruited; but I have no doubt that Mr. Martin will have this rectified directly he is able to obtain the services of capable non-Brahmin Agents for these particular Taluks. There are just two points in Mr. Martin's report that I wish to refer to. The first is in regard to the assault committed upon the gang of coolies who had travelled 266 miles by train, had walked another 7 miles and had still 33 miles to go to get to the Estate, when they were set upon and assaulted by persons who cannot be identified. When one takes into consideration the hundreds of coolies who go up during practically every month of the year into the planting districts by similar routes as described by Mr. Martin, the assault committed is a very serious matter, and although the Department have not been able to trace the perpetrators, I trust that they will not let the matter stop at that, but will see that a formal complaint is made to the highest district Government officials, in order that they may have issued such orders as will prevent similar assaults being committed in future. The other point which I wish to refer to is in regard to the newly-imported criminal coolies into the Anamalai District. Mr. Martin remarks as to the experiment being so far successful, and of these people promising to be a permanent and satisfactory addition to the labour force are likely to give a wrong impression to the other district delegates present. My personal opinion is that the experiment is still very much an experiment, and as to this class of labour being a satisfactory addition to the labour forces on the different estates, all I can inform the Meeting is that there is a great divergency of opinion among the different Estate Managers on this point. Some of these tribes are apparently less criminal than others, and those Estates which have had the good fortune to get the tribes of fairly good character have been more satisfied with this labour than their neighbours.

Mr. AYLMER MARTIN in reply said that the four matters Mr. Robinson had referred to in his speech were, first more out-agencies, secondly the inadvisability of employing Brahmin Agents, thirdly the assault made on a gang of coolies going to the Anamalais (he did not think that he said in his report that they were going to the Anamalais) but as it had been brought up he must go on with it and fourthly the employment of criminal tribes. With regard to the first, every one had noticed in the report that the amount sanctioned to be spent was very much in excess of what they had been able to spend. Part of the saving was due to the fact that they really could not find suitable men for the out-agencies. This year the Central Committee had repeated their liberal grants and if men were available for establishing more out-agencies, he would open then as soon as he found the men. With regard to the prejudice in the Anamalais against Brahmins, he did not altogether agree with it. Undoubtedly there were certain objections against them which affected the labour they employed, who were all untouchables from the Brahmin point of view. He was not sure, however, that that was the only consideration. They did not always want their agents to go into the villages. However he would make a note of the Anamalais objection, and, if he could find men of other castes who would do as well, he would certainly appoint them. With regard to the assault on the coolies going to Anamalais the whole matter was being investigated and was still under correspondence. He did not know if Mr. Robinson had seen copies of the various statements that had been made by every one. It was quite possible that when he had he would bear witness to the fact that the greatest credit was due to Mr. Alexander for the trouble that he had taken to sift the matter to the bottom. It was not finished yet and no stone would be left unturned to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

As regards the criminal tribes it was impossible to expect that the present generation could be entirely satisfactory. They were far more satisfactory, however, from all the reports he had received than he ever expected them to be. He had only received officially one complaint about the men being unsuitable. Considering the number of such men employed in the district that one complaint could hardly be taken as evidence that it would eventually be found that the men would prove unsatisfactory. It did prove, however, that there was a divergence of opinion. He had unofficially come to know of another occasion on which there was trouble. With these exceptions he had been led to suppose that the experiment was as successful as it could possibly be expected. He looked on the experiment more from a future point of view than from the present. Undoubtedly, if these men could be kept on the Estates even if they were not perfectly satisfactory, even if they were not quite so good as the other labourers, their children would be far better than any coolies they had at present in the Anamalais. It was well known that coolies brought up on the Estates and knew no other home were far more satisfactory than those who were always coming and going.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER said that the only thing in Mr. Martin's statement that he would deprecate was the suggestion that these criminal tribes as a present labour force had no value at all. If they had not had them in the Anamalais recently he did not know how they could have got through the work. They out-worked the Tamils every time. No doubt they were dangerous rascals, but the following incident would prove amusing. One of these men took a sovereign to

the bazaar and tried to sell it. The bazaarman, who ought to have known better, gave him a very small sum for it. The man seemed contented and took the money, but that night he broke into the bazaarman's place and took away the sovereign as well as Rs. 120. (Laughter).

Mr. MARTIN.—Did I use "no value", I think I said "even if they have less value?"

The Budget.

The Budget of receipts and expenditure for the coming year was unanimously adopted. After an agreement had been come to with the representatives of Messrs. Parry & Co., regarding the furnishing of information regarding the unit prices of fertilisers, the ordinary business of the Meeting concluded.

Estimated Revenue for 1916-17.

	RS.	A.	RS.	A.
Subscriptions—				
Anamalai Planters' Association ...	1,650	0		
Bababudin „ „	666	4		
Central Travancore Planters' Association.	856	0		
Coorg Planters' Association	1,625	0		
Kanan Devan Planters' Association ...	3,060	0		
Mundakayam „ „ ...	1,585	2		
Nilgiri Planters' Association... ...	2,370	6		
North Mysore Planters' Association ...	1,044	5		
Shevaroy „ „ ...	614	6		
South Mysore „ „ ...	812	8		
South Travancore Planters' Association	1,749	2		
West Coast „ „ ...	1,838	0		
Wynaad „ „ ...	1,333	8		
			19,204	9
Contribution from the Government of Madras ...			1,000	0
"Planters' Chronicle"			900	0
Ex-Chairmen's Subscription ...			45	0
Interest			710	0
Contribution from the Labour Department			2,885	0
Books of Proceedings			100	0
Contribution from R. G. A. for Secretary			600	0
„ „ U. P. A.			240	0
Estimated Fees for Analyses ...			1,800	0
			27,484	9

Estimated Expenditure for 1916-17.

	RS.	A.
Salaries	9,132	0
Rent	1,800	0
Postages	400	0
Lighting and Water	80	0
Office Charges and Petties	250	0
Stationery	375	0
Printing	250	0
Telegrams	70	0
Contribution to Government of Madras	4,036	0
Reporter's Fee	250	0
,, Expenses	125	0
Chairman's Travelling Allowance	150	0
Planting Member's Travelling Allowance	150	0
Subscription to London Chamber of Commerce ...	160	0
Periodicals	200	0
Books of Proceedings	200	0
Audit Fee	750	0
Depreciation	250	0
Fire Insurance...	17	7
Committee Meetings	800	0
Files for Office	200	0
Contingencies	50	0
Design for *Chronicle* Cover	100	0
Committee Reporter's Fee	50	0
Library	100	0
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts—		
A. Contingencies	100	0
Library	100	0
B. Analytical Branch—		
(*a*) Salary of Assistant Chemist	1,200	0
(*b*) Wages of the Laboratory Peon	120	0
(*c*) Laboratory Upkeep	400	0
(*d*) Lighting and Heating	80	0
Total	21,945	7

And a further sum of Rs. 200 for the purchase of furniture.

Office-Bearers.

The election of Office-bearers was then proceeded with the following results:—

Mr. J. S. NICOLLS, *Chairman*, Messrs. P. G. Tipping and C. E. Abbott, *Vice-Chairmen*. All three gentlemen acknowledged briefly the honour that had been done them in electing them to office. Messrs. Fraser and Ross were re-elected Auditors.

Votes of Thanks.

The CHAIRMAN said that he felt that he would not like to put up his shutters without asking the delegates to pass a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Barber. He was not going to eulogise Mr. Barber's work, because all that he had said in his opening address would apply now. Nobody knew the amount of time that Mr. Barber devoted to

the service of the community, and he felt that they were all under a great obligation to him. He would ask the delegates to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Barber for all that he had done for them as Planting Member of Council.

The Resolution was passed with acclamation.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARBER, in reply, said that Mr. Browne had said they were under an obligation to him for the work that he had done. He would not like them to go away with that idea. It was really the other way. He had taken great pleasure in the work, and, as he had already said, he would like to emphasise the fact that he could not have done the work but for the assistance and ready co-operation of Mr. Browne and the previous Chairmen with whom he had worked.

Mr. C. E. ABBOTT said that he had already talked a great deal, and he did not want to get up again, but he had been asked to do something which it gave him great pleasure to do, and that was to thank the Chairman for his work during the past year and for the way in which he had conducted the business of the Meeting that was about to close. He (Mr. Abbott) had been at home for a portion of the Chairman's year of office, but since his return he had attended some Committee meetings, and he knew that the time Mr. Browne, a very busy man, had to make to carry out the work had been a great tax on him. He did not think it was necessary on such an occasion to say much more than he thought—he knew in fact—that he was expressing the feelings of all, when he thanked Mr. Browne most heartily for the hard Work that he had done during his year of office.

The Chairman's Reply.

In reply, the Chairman said :—

GENTLEMEN,—I am greatly obliged to you for the hearty vote of thanks you have accorded me. The past year has been a busy one, and with the yearly increasing activities of the Association, the development of the new Departments, etc., the work of your Chairman and Secretary is necessarily increasing at the same ratio. During the past year the idea has grown upon me that our methods of dealing with business want speeding up, to meet the altered conditions. Occasions have arisen when immediate action was necessary. Our present method of procedure is to refer all matters that crop up during the course of the year to the Council, which in principle is no doubt quite sound, but slow and cumbersome. It seems to me we want a speedier way of dealing with urgent business, and I would suggest to my successor, Mr. Nicolls, if he will allow me to do so, the advisability of appointing an Executive Committee, which shall deal with all matters which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be settled without delay.

Under Nos. 8 and 9 of the Articles of Association, the Council has authority to appoint Committees and Rule III says a quorum of four members shall suffice for the transaction of business by the Council, I think, therefore, it would be advisable, keeping in view the fact that immediate action is the object for which the Council was created, to limit the Committee to four.

The Labour Department has entered its third year, under, I hope, favourable auspices, due, I think, to the wise decision arrived at by the Control Committee to invite District Associations to send dele-

gates to their Committee Meetings, to voice the opinions of their subscribers. I think this will do much to increase the popularity of the Department.

I must thank all District Associations for so readily accepting the new procedure for conducting our meetings, and to you, gentlemen, for not merely accepting them but actively assisting in making the new methods work smoothly. I am indebted to Mr. Bremner for his generous help in keeping me on the lines. I think the new system of Committees has worked well. I have no doubt, as time goes on, it will be improved upon.

It seems probable from what Mr. Stuart has told us to-day that the Madras Government will very shortly be able to make a start towards taking over the Scientific Department; if not to the full extent, it seems almost certain the Experimental Stations will be taken in hand very shortly. We are much indebted to Mr. Stuart for his help, also for attending the Meeting and putting the position so clearly before us.

We have to thank Mr. Richards for attending and explaining his programme of work as regards new railways in South India. In the districts in which he is interested there are more projects under consideration than we know of, but they do not in any way affect the decisions we had come to long since and which remain unaltered, namely, the development of the Cochin Harbour, the construction of a line from the Wynaad to Shoranur, and further north, direct communication between Mysore and the West Coast by the Hassan-Mangalore Railway.

We are much indebted to Dr. Coleman and Mr. McRae, for their most interesting lectures, which were listened to with much attention and will remain as a permanent record for reference in planting matters.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I take the opportunity of thanking you again for the co-operation and assistance which you have so generously extended to me and which have lightened my duties and rendered them so pleasant.

ACCOUNTS, 1915-1916.

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ACCOUNTS, 1915-1916.

UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA (INCORPORATED).

Revenue and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th June, 1916.

EXPENDITURE.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
To Secretary's Salary	6,000	0	0			
„ Office Salary	2,349	0	0			
„ Rent	1,800	0	0			
„ Postages	347	13	7			
„ Lighting and Water	74	3	4			
„ Office Charges and Petties ...	236	14	8			
„ Stationery	361	10	0			
„ Printing	281	12	0			
„ Telegrams	65	9	6			
				11,516	15	1
„ Contribution to the Government of Madras ...	4,036	0	0			
„ Laboratory Upkeep	627	14	3			
„ Scientific Officer's Contingencies ...	65	2	9			
„ Analytical Branch of Scientific Dept.	202	7	2			
„ Laboratory Lighting	59	4	0			
„ Library	51	1	6			
„ Periodicals	179	14	10			
				5,221	12	6
„ Annual Meeting	672	0	0			
„ R. G. A. Meeting at Quilon ...	395	15	6			
„ Committee Meeting at Ootacamund ...	284	2	9			
„ Coffee Planters' Meeting at Bangalore.	51	8	0			
				1,403	10	3
„ Subscription to London Chamber of Commerce...		...		156	4	6
„ Books of Proceedings		...		195	10	0
„ Audit Fee		...		250	0	0
„ Depreciation		...		259	12	2
„ Fire Insurance Premium		...		17	7	0
„ Madras Exhibition		...		246	2	0
„ Balance being net revenue transferred to Balance Sheet		...		4,298	12	7
Total Rs...		...		23,566	6	1

REVENUE.	RS.	A.	P.
By Subscription U.P.A.S.I., 1915-16.	18,306	3	6
„ Contribution from the Government of Madras	1,000	0	0
„ "Planters' Chronicle" ...	905	2	4
„ Books of Proceedings ...	107	1	0
„ Ex-Chairmen's Subscription ...	45	0	0
„ Interest (including interest accrued due)	710	11	3
„ Contribution from the Labour Department	2,325	0	0
„ Subscription paid to Rubber Growers' Association refunded.	47	4	0
„ Contribution from the Rubber Growers' Association to the U. P. A. S. I. towards Office Expenses in connection with the R. G. A. Secretaryship ...	120	0	0
Total Rs...	23,566	6	1

UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA (Incorporated).

Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1916.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
CAPITAL.						
(1) *General Capital Account.*						
Balance as per last Balance Sheet dated 30th June, 1915...	16,495	4	8			
Add Excess of Revenue for the year as per Revenue and Expenditure Account ...	4,298	12	7			
				20,794	1	3
(2) *Funds of the Association.*						
1. Scientific Assistant (Mysore) Fund, as per separate statement	2,143	4	9			
2. Laboratory Fund as per separate statement ...	18	8	5			
	2,161	13	2			
3. Kalisyndicate Manurial Experiment Fund as per separate statement ...	2,490	13	5			
4. Experimental Plot Fund as per separate statement ...	85	10	0			
				4,738	4	7
(3) *Capital of the Labour Department* as per contra ...	90,749	6	0			
Capital with the Labour Department as per separate statement	18,267	8	10			
				1,09,016	14	10
				1,34,549	4	8

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—						
Office Furniture as per last Account...	1,624	9	10			
Less sold during the year ...	26	0	0			
	1,598	9	10			
Less Depreciation written off ...	159	13	10			
				1,438	12	0
Laboratory Fittings as per last Account	999	0	0			
Less Depreciation written off ...	99	14	4			
				899	1	8
				2,337	13	8
STOCK OF CHEMICAL APPARATUS ...	...			182	13	9
LABOUR DEPARTMENT—						
Subscription due by sundries :—						
Subscribers 1914-15	1,626	0	0			
do. 1915-16	14,817	0	0			
	16,443	0	0			
Less Subscription paid in advance ...	461	4	0			
	15,981	12	0			
Cash with Mercantile Bank ...	74,767	10	0			
	90,749	6	0			
Property and Assets of the Labour Department as per attached Balance Sheet	18,267	8	10			
				1,09,016	14	10
BOOK DEBTS—						
Amounts due by sundries considered good	...			1,137	12	0
INTEREST ACCRUED DUE ON FIXED DEPOSIT RECEIPTS	...			452	10	3

OTHER FUNDS.				INVESTMENTS OF FUNDS AS PER CONTRA—				
South India Planters' Benevolent Fund as per separate statement and invested as per contra ...	18,871 2 5			SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND—				
Overseas Air Craft Fund as per separate statement and as per contra	35 5 2			Rs. 18,500 3½% Government paper at 78	14,430 0 0			
South India Planters' War Fund as per separate statement and as per contra	42,322 14 10			Fixed Deposit Receipt—Bank of Madras	3,000 0 0			
			61,229 6 5	Cash with Mercantile Bank ...	1,175 11 5			
				Interest accrued due to 30th June, 1916	265 7 0			
LIABILITIES.					18,871 2 5			
For Expenses				OVERSEAS AIR CRAFT FUND—				
Audit Fee	750 0 0			Cash with Mercantile Bank ...	35 5 2			
Secretary (on account of R.G.A.).	300 0 0			SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND				
Printing	60 0 0			Cash with Mercantile Bank ...	31,322 14 10			
			1,110 0 0	Cash with Secy. in London ...	10,550 0 0			
				Loans granted in London.	450 0 0	42,322 14 10		
							61,229 6 5	
				CASH and OTHER BALANCES—				
				Cash in hand		11 9 8		
				Cash on Fixed Deposit— Bank of Madras	13,860 0 0			
				Cash on Fixed Deposit— National Bank ...	1,140 0 0	15,000 0 0		
				Cash with Mercantile Bank on current account		7,519 10 6		
							22,531 4 2	
Total Rs...	...		1,96,888 11 1	Total Rs...		...		1,96,888 11 1

FLETCHER NORTON, *Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.* J. S. NICOLLS, *Vice-Chairman.* C. H. BROWNE, *Chairman.*

We have to report that we have examined the Balance Sheet of the United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated) as at 30th June 1916, and s above set forth and that we have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and that in our opinion such Balance Sheet exhibits a true nd correct view of the state of the Association's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the ssociation and that it is drawn up in conformity with the law.

BANGALORE, *9th August*, 1916.

FRASER & ROSS, *Chartered Accountants.* } *Auditors.*

BALANCE SHEET OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE U. P. A. S. I.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.						PROPERTY AND ASSETS.							
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Capital—							*Fixed Capital Expenditure.*						
							Furniture at Head Office and Agencies	...			6,190	14	5
With the Director of the Labour Department ...	...			18,267	8	10	Less depreciation written off.	...			1,245	15	10
											4,944	14	7
							Stock of Advertising Goods...	...			4,800	0	0
Liabilities—													
							Book Debts.—						
Security Deposit	500	0	0				Due by Sundries considered good	7,555	7	8			
Sundry Estates for advances received	11,814	2	11				Due for advances made on account of Sundry Estates.	3,372	1	2			
Salaries, etc., due and unpaid.	3,622	2	6								10,927	8	10
				15,936	5	5	*Cash and other Balances—*						
							Cash with Banks on current account	7,192	6	8			
							Cash on fixed deposits ...	1,000	0	0			
							Cash on hand at Head Office and Agencies	5,339	0	2			
											13,531	6	10
Total Rs...	...			34,203	14	3	Total Rs...	...			34,203	14	3

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.					
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.
Expenses—											
Bank Charges	31	10	7			Subscription 1915-16 ...	2,00,516	8	4		
Payment to the Labour Department	1,69,000	0	0			Entrance Fees	1,059	5	1		
						Interest	1,198	14	11		
Excess payment of last year refunded this year ...	1,845	8	0							2,02,774	12 4
				1,70,877	2 7	Balance as at 30th June, 1915...	...			58,851	12 3
Balance as per Balance Sheet.	...			90,749	6 0						
Total Rs...	...			2,61,626	8 7	Total Rs...	...			2,61,626	8 7

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Statement of the Director's Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.				
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A.	P.	
Expenses of Head Office and Agencies	1,64,415	14	8			Amount received from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.	1,69,000	0	0	
Depreciation written off ...	1,245	15	10							
				1,65,661	14 6	Balance as at 30th June, 1915 ...	14,929	7	4	
Balance as per Balance Sheet ...	...			18,267	8 10					
Total Rs..	...			1,83,929	7 4	Total Rs...	1,83,929	7	4	

MYSORE SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT'S LABORATORY FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.			
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A.	P.
Payment to Mr. Pittock for Laboratory Apparatus	378	0	0			Balance as at 30th June, 1915, as per last Account	388	0	4
Messrs. Best & Co.'s Bill for Dynamite for experimental purposes.	270	2	11			Amount transferred from Scientific Assistant (Mysore) Fund...	300	0	0
Messrs. Peirce Leslie & Co.'s Bill for Copper sulphate supplied ...	21	5	0						
				669	7 11				
Balance as per Balance Sheet ...	...			18	8 5				
Total Rs...	...			688	0 4	Total Rs...	688	0	4

SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT (MYSORE) FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.							RECEIPTS.					
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	Subscription from—	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A. P.
Mr. Frattini's Salary ...	4,962	8	0				South Mysore Planters' Association	1,950	0	0		
„ „ Allowance ...	300	0	0				Bababudin Planters' Association...	1,530	0	0		
„ „ Peon ...	120	0	0				North Mysore Planters' Association	2,625	0	0		
Printing Charges	69	3	6				Messrs. Pierce Leslie & Co., Ltd., Mangalore ...	50	0	0		
Transfer to Laboratory Fund ...	300	0	0				Messrs. Volkart Brothers, Mangalore	50	0	0		
Books Supplied	14	0	0				Messrs. A. J. Saldanha & Sons, Mangalore ...	50	0	0		
Contingencies	1	8	0				Messrs. P. F. X. Saldanha & Sons, Mangalore ...	50	0	0		
Rent	120	0	0								6,305	0 0
				5,887	3	6	Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1915, as per last Account	...			1,725	8 3
Balance as per Balance Sheet...	...			2,143	4	9						
Total Rs...	...			8,030	8	3	Total Rs...	...			8,030	8 3

KALISYNDICATE MANURIAL EXPERIMENT FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.	RS. A. P.	RECEIPTS.	RS. A. P.
Manures for Experiments	439 15 5	Balance as at 30th June, 1915	2,930 12 10
Balance as per Balance Sheet... ...	2,490 13 5		
Total Rs...	2,930 12 10	Total Rs...	2,930 12 10

EXPERIMENTAL PLOT FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.	RS. A. P.	RECEIPTS.	RS. A. P.
Payment to Curator, Government Gardens, for wages of coolies for Experimental plot	100 0 0	Balance as at 30th June, 1915	185 10 0
Balance as per Balance Sheet... ...	85 10 0		
Total Rs...	185 10 0	Total Rs...	185 10 0

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.							
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Assistance Granted— ...													
Imray Fund	150	0	0				Subscription received ...	3,000	4	0			
Mr. Claridge	400	0	0				Interest accrued and received.	925	1	8			
Mr. Morrison	200	0	0								3,925	5	8
				750	0	0	Amount of the Fund as at 30th June, 1915		...		19,159	8	8
Expenses—													
Printing Charges ...	52	8	0										
Bank Charges	0	5	0										
				52	13	0							
Depreciation written off Government paper to bring value to 78		...		3,410	14	11							
Balance as per Balance Sheet..		...		18,871	2	5							
Total Rs...		...		23,084	14	4	Total Rs...				20,084	14	4

OVERSEAS AIRCRAFT FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.				
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Postages and Bank Discount ...	20	2	0				Subscriptions collected ...	4,668	14	0
Remittance to the Secretary of the Overseas Air Flotilla Fund.	4,649	6	9				Interest received	35	15	11
				4,669	8	9				
Balance as per Balance Sheet ...		...		35	5	2				
Total Rs...		...		4,704	13	11	Total Rs...	4,704	13	11

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.				
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Bank Charges and Petties ...	22	1	10				Subscriptions collected ...	41,965	0	9
Printing Charges	11	12	0				Interest received	408	7	11
Postages	16	12	0							
				50	9	10				
Balance as per Balance Sheet ...	...			42,322	14	10				
Total Rs...	...			42,373	8	8	Total Rs...	42,373	8	8

PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.

Statement of Account for the year to 30th June, 1916.

PAYMENTS.						RECEIPTS.				
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Printing Charges	2,876	15	6				Revenue from Advertisements...	4,657	4	8
Stationery	20	15	6				Revenue from Subscriptions and			
Typist's Salary	180	0	0				sale of *Planters' Chronicle* Books.	299	3	0
Commission on Advertisements.	68	4	0							
Half share of profit paid to the Managing Editor	905	2	4							
				4,051	5	4				
Half share of profit transferred to Revenue and Expenditure Account U P. A. S. I. ...	...			905	2	4				
Total Rs...	...			4,956	7	8	Total Rs...	4,956	7	8

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

RULES OF THE U. P. A. S. I. (Incorporated).

(*As revised at the Annual General Meeting*, 1915).

I. (*a*) That voting be by the elected delegates of each District Association.

(*b*) That every District Association be assessed at the rate of 2 annas per acre on the area under cultivation represented by Members of the Association. That a vote shall be given for every Rs. 10 subscribed.

(*c*) That each District Association declare at the Annual Meeting of this Association the area on which the assessment is to be calculated for the ensuing year.

II. That the Annual General Meeting shall be held at Bangalore during the months of July or August in each year.

(1) That at least three subsidiary Sectional Meetings at convenient centres be held in addition each year to deal mainly with coffee, tea and rubber, respectively.

(2) That these Sectional Meetings devote special attention to the purely agricultural aspect of the planting industries by means of lectures, exhibitions and discussions.

(3) That all Resolutions passed at these Sectional Meetings shall be forwarded to the U. P. A. S. I. to be re-considered at the Annual Meeting of that body and that such Resolutions shall not become in any way binding upon the U. P. A. S. I. unless re-affirmed at an Annual Meeting.

(4) That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be hereby empowered and instructed to approach the Honorary Secretaries of the District Planters' Associations with a view to making the necessary arrangements for holding such Sectional Meetings during the ensuing year, and in future years; that he shall attend all such Meetings, if possible; and that a travelling allowance be granted him for this purpose, of a double first-class railway fare and Rs. 5 halting allowance.

III. That a quorum of four members shall suffice for the transaction of business by the Council.

IV. That the expenses of the delegates to any Meeting of the Council convened under Article 24 be defrayed by the Association.

V. That in all Meetings and in the conduct of business by the Council the system of voting be on the subscription basis of one vote for every Rs. 10 subscribed and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Planting Member and the ex-Chairman of the previous year shall have one vote.

That the Scientific Officer shall be permitted to move Resolutions at Meetings, but shall have no vote.

VI. That the Council shall have power to appoint the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and Secretary, should any of the offices become vacant during their term of office.

That should a vacancy occur in either of the appointments of Vice-Chairman during any financial year at any time greater than one month from the expiry thereof, the Council shall elect one of their number to fill such vacancy.

VII. That ex-Chairmen, ex-Vice-Chairmen and ex-Planting Members of Council may be allowed to attend Meetings to propose Resolutions or amendments, and to vote, having one vote each and do in that case pay an annual subscription of Rs. 15 ; and that while in India they be entitled also to receive the circulars of the Association upon intimating their wish to the Secretary.

That delegates of the previous year be admitted in like manner for one year only.

VIII. All questions in which the Association is interested shall be determined at the Annual Meeting, and after such Meeting the general business of the Association shall be conducted, *ad interim* by the Chairman, Council and Secretary and their actions shall be submitted for confirmation at the next Annual Meeting.

IX. Proxies sent to the Secretary one fortnight before an Ordinary General Meeting shall be accepted, and Proxies sent to the Secretary one week before the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be accepted. In both cases they shall be properly stamped and shall state clearly the purpose for which they are given. (*Vide* Form of Proxy given below).

X. Any Member having an original proposition to propose shall give notice to the Secretary in time to allow him to give 30 days' notice before the assembling of any Meeting and no subject shall be discussed without such notice, except with the unanimous consent of the Meeting.

XI. (1) That the Finance Committee consist of not more than five members, namely, the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Planting Member and the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the previous year. That the Secretary be the Secretary to the Finance Committee.

(2) That it is understood that the Finance Committee has direct executive control in all matters concerning finance or connected therewith.

FORM OF PROXY.

The Proxy authorises.....to vote for me at the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. to be held on.....and any adjournment thereof on the Resolution relating to.....and on any amendment that may arise therefrom.

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